

have the responsibility to be an eye witness. On the other hand, he seemed a little over done in his insistence. Jesus shows that He will come to us in our need, with the proof that will change our hearts. Although Jesus asserts, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe," we know that God willingly goes to great lengths to bring us to Him. Considering the fact that to effect our salvation He sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, there is not much God would be unwilling to do to help us believe. Thomas was given what He needed. We are given what we need to believe and to sustain our faith. The people of the world all have the same presentation of the truth of Jesus, and yet many refuse to see and believe. The message from God is the same: Stop doubting and believe!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord our God, how great is the goodness which You have laid up for those who know and love You. Give us the knowledge of You that we, through Jesus Christ Your Son, may obtain those glories which our eyes have not seen, and that our ears have not heard.

We praise and thank you for the Resurrection of Your Son, the bright and glorious promise that all who hear His voice and follow Him shall, in the likeness of His Resurrection, also be raised. Accept our thanksgiving for His compassion on us, we, who are, through Your great mercy, willing subjects of Your kingdom both now and into eternity.

Bestow on Your church all such things as are important to us, that we may be obedient to the example of our Savior; seeking the lost sheep of the Israel of faith, raising the fallen, rescuing the weary, comforting the faint, restoring the erring, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, and thus showing forth the praise of He Who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Draw all Your people to a oneness of faith, doctrine, and spirit, that in obedience to truth, in loyalty to Jesus Christ, and in concern for the prosperity of His kingdom, there shall be but one people with one Lord, one God, one faith, one Baptism, one true confession until the end of time.

We ask, O Lord, that You would, strengthen the sick, support the weak, supply the needy, and show Yourself a very present help in every necessity.

Listen to us, O God, as we ask in secret for some special help or favor, and give us the assurance of Your mercy, granted to us through the grace of Jesus.

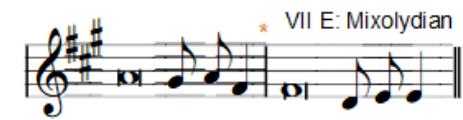
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.)

Let us then depart in peace according to Your Word, and receive from You everlasting life. This we pray in the name and for the sake of our Risen Savior, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Amen.

EASTER TWO

Chant Tone



<p>Introit Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to — salvation,* if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.</p> <p>Oh give thanks to the Lord; call up on His name;* make known His deeds among the — peoples! Sing to Him, sing prais es to Him;* tell of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name;* let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and His strength;* seek His presence con — tinually!</p>	<p>Remember the wondrous works that He has done,* His miracles, and the judgments He — uttered.</p> <p>He remembers His covenant for — ever,* the word that He commanded, for a thousand gener — ations.</p> <p>Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.</p> <p>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to — salvation,* if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, 1 Peter 2:2-3; Psalm 105:1-5, 8)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's Resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead*
[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,
You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;*
you have put all things un | der His feet.

(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O God of all grace, mercy and peace, Who, by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, declared Him to be Your Son and our Savior, and Who, by the faithful testimony of the Apostles, has given us assurance that our faith stands upon a true and sure witness. Grant the fullness of Your Spirit in our heart that we may always rest in Your truth. We look to You in thanksgiving for Your Scripture. Set the hearts and minds of all in Your church to Your will that we will preach Your Word and proclaim the Gospel of our risen Savior to all the world and to all peoples. All this we pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE FALSE NOTIONS OF MEN WILL ALWAYS FAIL BUT GOD'S WORD ALWAYS SUCCEEDS: In the evening, of the day Jesus came out of the tomb, He met with the Apostles. The plans of God were fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus and He went to them to proclaim the fulfillment. The Apostles were in fear of their lives. They seemed to be having a little trouble believing the prophecy of Jesus, the pronouncement of the women and even the news from Peter and John. Jesus came and settled all their fears by granting them life in His presence. We have come today, to worship our Resurrected Savior in the knowledge that all our fears and concerns are settled in His life.

THEME OF THE DAY:

No Doubt, Know Jesus

INTROIT—(Antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3;) Psalm 105:1-5, 8

The 1 Peter passage is the point of our life with Christ, growing by drinking the pure spiritual milk of the Gospel. Psalm 105 is a very long Psalm of which we have taken a tiny part. There is some indication that it was written by David and connects to 1 Chronicles 16. It was written for the time the Ark was moved to its permanent place in the Temple. We use what is essentially the preface to the Psalm for our Introit today.

COLLECT

We have doubts about the truth of God. We ask God to keep us in the wonder and mystery of the Resurrection that was so real for us last week, so that we can show it in our life, both for our own benefit and for the benefit of others.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 5:29-42

This is the second time the Apostles were imprisoned for the proclamation of the Gospel. This time the report of their activities went all the way to the High Priest. This is in complete contrast to the event that first Sunday when Jesus had come out of the grave, for then they were hiding out. Peter had denied Jesus three times, but he was clearly not ever going to deny Jesus again. The Apostles, having been beaten and charged not to speak of Jesus, proclaimed Him, even in the Temple.

GRADUAL—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Peter 1:3-9

"The first letter of Peter is often and rightly, called the Letter of Hope. Hope in the full Christian sense of a serene and confident dependence on God, hope based on the unshakable certainty of the resurrection of the dead which is begun and guaranteed in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, hope as a mighty energizing power for the whole life of men in the church..." (The Word of the Lord Grows, 1961) Our text today is the grand, opening doxology. Over the next 5 Sundays we read the majority of this epistle known as First Peter.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 20:19-31

The encounter between Thomas and the risen Christ is the focus of our Gospel Lesson for today. Jesus went to great lengths to accommodate the needs of Thomas for faith. Thomas had an issue. He had not yet seen the risen Christ. He would not believe unless he was able to see for himself. In one sense he had a point. After all he as an Apostle would