

to be an eye witness. On the other hand, he seems a little over done in his insistence. Jesus showed that He will come to us in our need, with the proof that will change our hearts. Although Jesus asserted, "blessèd 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 this same presentation and yet many refuse to see and believe. Stop doubting and believe!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓟ Lord our God, great is the goodness which You have laid up for those who know You; Great are the things you have prepared for those who love You. Give us the knowledge of You that we, through Jesus Christ Your Son, may have our hearts filled with those glories which our eyes have not seen, and 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. Through Your great mercy You have made us willing subjects of Your kingdom both now and into eternity.

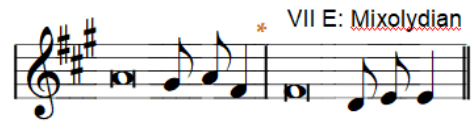
Bestow on Your Church all such things as are important to us, that we may be obedient to the example of our Savior and seek the lost sheep of the Israel-of-faith; raise the fallen, rescue the weary, comfort the faint, restore the erring, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, shelter the homeless, and thus show forth the praises of Him Who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Draw all Your people to a oneness of faith, that in obedience to truth, in loyalty to Jesus Christ, and in concern for the prosperity of His kingdom, there shall be one people with One Lord, One God, one Faith, one Baptism.

Direct our path through the sin, strife, and uncertainty of these times, O Lord. Grant us true faith and a godly heart. Strengthen the sick, support the weak, supply the needy, and show Yourself a very present help in every necessity. When our last hour shall come, because our eyes have seen Your Salvation, let us depart in peace according to Your Word, and receive us into everlasting glory.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
This we pray in the name and for the sake of our risen Savior; Jesus Christ, Son of God, 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.
He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*
He has 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 hearts 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.)

TODAY IS SOMETIMES CALLED "LOW" SUNDAY. While this day typically has the worst attendance of the year, it is called, "Low Sunday," because it is the first Sunday after the most spectacular event in the history of the church, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing can compare to the wonder of Easter. The Sunday following Easter becomes the "lowest" point in the church year as we gather ourselves up from the day of so much excitement and continue the celebration of Easter. We welcome all who have come out on this "Low Sunday." It is with a sense of pure delight that we have been called out by God to continue the celebration of Easter. For that we thank you for blending your voices with ours as we sing to the Lord our New Testament Song of salvation and eternal life through our risen Lord.

THEME OF THE DAY:

A New Beginning

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

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 connected 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 Psalm 105 for our Introit today. In 1 Peter 2:2-3 we are encouraging to grow in our life with Christ. We will grow by drinking the pure spiritual milk of the Gospel.

COLLECT

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 and in our words, that others might hear, see and believe.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 4:32-35

These verses do not represent the ideal of what it means to be a Christian, rather they are the statement of what it meant to be a Christian in the town of Jerusalem. As people became followers of Jesus they were cut off from their family and jobs. It actually served the purpose of God that the followers were selling off their possessions. In AD 70 when the Romans first attacked and then destroyed Jerusalem, the Christians who did not own houses or land simply moved away.

GRADUAL—(adapted from) Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

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

EPISTLE LESSON—1 John 1:1–2:2

We will read most of the First Epistle written by the Apostle John during the next 7 Sundays. The fact that this is the same John who was one of Jesus' Apostles and further wrote the Gospel is easy to prove. In this Epistle he repeated information from the Gospel, from a more personal position. He stated that he was an eye-witness, in fellowship with Christ, and desires that his readers join him in that place. We use the words of verses 8 and 9 as a part of our confession of sins, because of the personal power in those words. The idea of "new beginning," makes up our theme for the day.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 20:19-31

The encounter between Thomas and the risen Christ is the focus of this text. 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 have the responsibility