

revealing Himself to the woman, and then Peter and John, after revealing Himself to the men on the road to Emmaus, Jesus met the Apostles in the upper room where they are hiding out. The following Sunday He appeared again, this time to Thomas who had stated he was not going to believe unless He saw for Himself. Because of his doubts, Thomas missed Easter, and finally caught it the following week. The world often ignores the direct revelation of God, (His Word and His Son) it is only by His grace that we will not miss any Easter in our entire life.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O God of life and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Your abundant grace, You have begotten us again to a new and living assurance by the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. You have transformed the night of doubt and sorrow into the new and eternal day of joy and gladness. You have brought life and immortality to light by the glad tidings that Christ is risen. For this, O Lord, we give You thanks. You have delivered Your Son, Who died for our sins, from the grip of death and raised Him by Your power. That which You sowed in dishonor and weakness, You have raised in power and glory. O God, we praise You that through Him You removed from us death's sting. You have brought us victory over the grave.

Fill our hearts with the joy of His Resurrection, and let us live only for Jesus. Grant Your Church the power of the Resurrected Christ. Help us show forth Your praises. Bless our homes with the comfort and expectation of Easter. Send the conquering banner of Christ's victory into all the world. Allow everyone everywhere to come to the knowledge of Jesus as Savior. Grant that many more nations may join the hosts of Heaven in songs of triumph.

In the promise of Easter take away from us all fear of death. Let the radiant beams of Easter's light shine into the depths of our souls. Renew us in the Spirit of Him Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Speak peace to our souls and maintain our faith in Him Who promises resurrection and life.

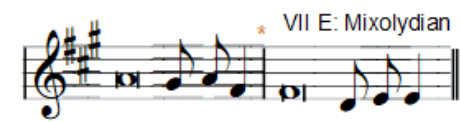
Grant strength and faith, wisdom and courage, grace and every blessing to those who are oppressed for Christ's sake. Visit with Your divine presence those who are lonely. O Father, we ask that You would give wholeness to the broken bodies of your faithful, heal the sick and give courage to the disheartened.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) We ask this in the name of our risen 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)

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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.)

WE WELCOME ALL WHO HAVE COME OUT TO WORSHIP WITH US ON THIS OUR CONTINUING CELEBRATION OF EASTER. In the scheme of the church calendar this Sunday is known as "Low" Sunday, because we are one Sunday after the highest festival day of the church year, it can't be anything else but a "low" Sunday. We don't need to feel low. Our Savior came out of the grave to place us in the highest position in Heaven. Our names have been inscribed in the book of life, Jesus Christ. We are the redeemed before God. All our doubts have been assuaged. All our anxiety and burden has been lifted into the waiting arms of Christ. He took them to His death and raises us into perfection.

THEME OF THE DAY:

No Doubt, Know Jesus

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

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. Psalm 105 is quite long, we are only using the preface. 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.

COLLECT

Our Collect reflects the main character of "Low" Sunday, that is that we have just come off of the highest celebration of our life. Easter is such a grand fact that we ask God to allow us to speak of this wonder with our life and with our words.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 5:12-32

We are reading the result of the self-revelation and self-declaration that is recounted to us in the Gospel Lesson. The Apostles and Disciples of Jesus were given direct revelation. They saw Him after the Resurrection, they ate with Him, they talked to Him. The result of all this is power. They were given the power to make the revelation known to the world. This gave the Apostles the determination to preach. Even when put under the threat of punishment, when put into prison, they were given the assistance of the Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim. The Church continues to live in the same mandate from God; to take the Revelation of His Word to the people of the world.

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—Revelation 1:4-18

For Easter we read from Acts and (in the "C" series) six lessons from Revelation. Today we are concentrating on the First Person of the Trinity; The Father. He is the One Who is and Who was and Who is to come. He is the Alpha and Omega. It is He who has caused His Revelation to come to the seven churches. Then we are introduced to the Christ, the Son of Man. He is connected to the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is given the same title as the Father with a unique twist. Through the Word and in Jesus, God made Himself known. Through the word, we are given saving knowledge of God.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 20:19-31

From as far back as the church has used liturgy we have used this lesson from John on this Sunday of Easter. It is the same lesson every year. After