



Midweek Service of Word, Song and Prayer

Opening Prayer

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

Revelation 1:8

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

What impact might these words have on those whose country has been invaded by an enemy or whose lives have been victimized by a criminal?

John 20

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

What does it mean that Jesus is both Lord and God?

Reflection for the Day

Can I get a Witness?

The texts for today explore what it means to be a witness: the power of seeing and experiencing the resurrection firsthand. For those of us who weren't there in person to witness Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, a question persists: How do we give witness? How have we experienced Easter firsthand? What do we need to see, to touch, to hear in order to believe?

The witness given in our readings today is extraordinary. "Doubting" Thomas comes up with one of the most powerful, concise creeds in all of scripture: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Peter and the apostles affirm their belief in Christ at great risk to themselves and their families. The Spirit is at work, giving ordinary, doubting people extraordinary boldness to declare the core beliefs of Christian faith. God works in surprising ways, through unexpected people, to share the good news of Easter. With the Spirit's help, we can give witness too.

Hymn of the Day

We Walk by Faith

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear,
Of Him, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
Yet we believe Him near.
- 2 We may not touch His hands and side,
or follow where He trod;
Yet in His promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:
- 4 That when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
in full and endless sight.
- 5 We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear,
Of Him, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
Yet we believe Him near.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: Marty Haugen, 1950

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended to the living,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Dismissal

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**