

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

The Second Sunday of Easter

Quasimodogeniti

April 19, 2020

My story of *Quasimodogeniti*. I remember my pastor mentioning Quasimodogeniti Sunday when I was growing up. He taught the congregation all the Latin names for the Sundays of the Church Year and I have to confess that I am fond of them. *Quasimodogeniti* is a somewhat startling and fun name to say but that's not why I like this Sunday so much. It's because of the message of 1 Peter 2:2, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."

My love of this Sunday began in 1978. I attended the Minnesota North District Convention. It was my first convention as a pastor and I eagerly looked forward to it. At the opening service, the First Vice-President of the District preached on 1 Peter 2:2. It was one of the most inspiring and memorable sermons that I have ever heard.

Upon reflection I realized that one of the reasons that it was so remarkable to me is because it was the first sermon that I had heard in almost a year. As a new pastor, I had preached every Sunday and it wasn't until that day that I was able to sit and drink in the wonderful message of God's word proclaimed by someone else.

This experience drove home to me the importance of craving the pure spiritual milk of God's word and growing in the faith. When we are absent from church (even when we are doing our own Bible study), we lack the full impact of the Word of God on our lives. When people claim that they can be Christians without going to church, they are deceiving themselves. This is like saying that you can be a baby without craving milk! Indeed it's a true statement but a baby that doesn't crave milk will be a weak baby indeed.

Pastor Quardokus

An Easter Salutation *adapted from 2 Timothy 1:10 & Psalm 118*

- L** Christ is risen! Alleluia!
- C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- L** Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!
- C** And has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Alleluia!

- L** The Lord is my strength and my song. Alleluia!
- C** He has become my salvation. Alleluia!
- L** I will not die, but live. Alleluia!
- C** I will proclaim what the Lord has done. Alleluia!
- L** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

- L** I will not die, but live. Alleluia!
- C** I will proclaim what the Lord has done. Alleluia!
- L** Christ is risen! Alleluia!
- C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today Lutheran Service Book 469, Lutheran Worship 142, The Lutheran Hymnal 193



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on earth and an - gels say;
2 Love's re - deem-ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo! Our Sun's e-clipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for-bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Soar we now where Christ has led;
Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

Introit Ps. 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3

L 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.

C Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

L Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

C Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

L Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

C Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

L He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L 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.

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: 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.
- C** Amen.

Acts 5:29-42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men.

³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- L** Christ has risen from the dead.
- C** God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,
- L** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- C** he has put all things under his feet.

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

- L** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.
- C** Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

John 20:19-31

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

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

O Sons and Daughters of the King

Lutheran Service Book 470, Lutheran Worship 130, The Lutheran Hymnal 208

1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them
 5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had

hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
 speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."
 seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt-ed the dis - ci-ples' word.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
 And look upon My hands, My feet;
 Not faithless but believing be."

Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.

Alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been,
 For they eternal life shall win.
 Alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
 Be laud and jubilee and praise:
 To God your hearts and voices raise.
 Alleluia!

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Devotional thoughts:

This is the Second Sunday of Easter. I suppose that is a name that we can live with but it seems to be a rather bland name compared to other options. As you may know from reading above, the historic name for today is Quasimodogeniti Sunday. Quasimodogeniti means as “newborn babes” which are the first words of the introit in Latin from 1 Peter 2:2. However, it is not the only other option for this Sunday. Years ago I learned from my Anglican priest friend, Fr. Clark Day, that this Sunday is also known as Low Sunday (for obvious reasons). On Easter Sunday all of the faithful were in church. On this day, only the every Sunday Christians are in attendance. For a pastor, it is a good Sunday to take note of who is in their regular pew. Unfortunately, I have known quite a few pastors who choose to also take a little vacation on the Sunday after Easter and so miss this glorious opportunity.

For those who were in church year after year on Quasimodogeniti Sunday when I was preaching know that this is my favorite Latin named Sunday (again as mentioned above) but they will also know that this is Doubting Thomas Sunday from the annual reading of John 20:19–31. On Easter evening, Jesus appears to the disciples when Thomas was not there. When the disciples see Thomas, they report to him the wonderful news of Jesus’ resurrection but Thomas refuses to believe. Then on the following Sunday, Jesus appears again behind locked doors and gives special attention to Thomas so that he will come to faith. To this Thomas gives the most wonderful confession of faith when he exclaims to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

I am an art lover (I know—that's hard for you to believe ;-)) I am particularly fond of paintings produced from the Renaissance through Impressionism (Sorry to all you modern and post-modern art fans). My favorite painting of Doubting Thomas is The Incredulity of Saint Thomas by Caravaggio. Historical inaccuracies aside, it is a marvelous depiction of Jesus' personal concern for Thomas and his faith.



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, Caravaggio 1602

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This is a good Sunday for us to remember that Jesus has a deep and abiding concern for each one of us and our faith in Him. In the days of mega-churches and superstar TV evangelists, it is a good day for us to pause and contemplate that no one is expendable in Jesus' church. (Small churches seem to have a little better grasp of this.)

It goes without saying that we may at times doubt. Our skepticism is fueled by the secular spirit of our times, the profane nature of society, and possibly the difficult situation in which we find ourselves during our current national crisis. If this is particularly true for you at this time, pause and reflect of Jesus and Thomas. It would have been easy to write off Thomas because of his doubting. It might have been convenient to brush him aside as unnecessary. It may have been tempting to point to his doubt as failure and reject him as unworthy.

Jesus did none of those. He went to the cross for doubters and unbelievers of all kinds. He goes out of His way to bring the good news of the resurrection personally to Thomas.

Jesus does the same for you. In times of distress and doubt, Jesus never leaves you behind or declares you unworthy. Rather, He keeps His promise to never leave you or forsake you. Even if you have at sometime come to the point of rejecting Jesus and His resurrection, He is always there to welcome you home into the family of God. Like the father of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), He is always there for you.

If you happen to be in church next year on “Low Sunday,” look about at the empty places and remember Thomas, remember that there may have been a time when you were unfaithful, and determine to go the extra mile, as Jesus did, for those who doubt like Thomas.

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

L Let us pray. God of mercy, keep us from the doubts and fears that cripple us and prevent us from knowing the fullness of Your saving peace and gracious presence. Teach us to trust in Your Word and to believe with all our hearts, minds, bodies and strength in Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. Teach us to love one another as You have loved us. Guide us so that in our neighborhoods and communities we may manifest the love of Christ as well as His strength. Deliver us from all that would threaten our homes and families. Protect the police, firefighters, disaster-relief workers and medical personnel who attend to us, as well as the places where we live and work. through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing Lutheran Service Book 633, Lutheran Worship 139, The Lutheran Hymnal 201

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal

our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love

Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.
Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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