

# The Second Sunday of Easter

## *Quasimodogeniti*

April 14, 2022

### My story of *Quasimodogeniti*

I remember my pastor mentioning *Quasimodogeniti* Sunday when I was young. He taught our 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 is 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 now realize it was so remarkable to me because this was the first sermon that I had heard in almost a year. As a new pastor, I preached every Sunday but on 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. It's like saying that you can be a baby without craving milk! Indeed, this is a true statement. However, a baby that doesn't crave milk will be a very weak baby.

### 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!



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

- L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

### Introit Psalm 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

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Christ, | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |

### 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 5:12–20

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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

### Gradual adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- 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.

### Psalm 148

- L** <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
**C** <sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!  
**L** <sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!  
**C** <sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!  
**L** <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.  
**C** <sup>6</sup>And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.  
**L** <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
**C** <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!  
**L** <sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
**C** <sup>10</sup>Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!  
**L** <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
**C** <sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together, old men and children!  
**L** <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.  
**C** <sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.  
Praise the LORD!

### Revelation 1:4–18

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his

right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

**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, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, 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 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>On 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.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight 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.” <sup>27</sup>Then 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.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but 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.



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!

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

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

As is so often the case, the Gospel lesson for this week is jam-packed with significant Bible teachings. Here is an incomplete list

Jesus' Resurrection  
 Jesus' greeting of peace  
 Jesus' crucifixion wounds remain in His resurrected body.  
 The sending of the Apostles  
 The institution of holy absolution and the Office of the Keys

The doubting and faith of Thomas  
The divinity of Jesus  
Jesus blessing upon all believers  
The purpose of the Gospel of John and the entire Bible: that you may believe that Jesus  
is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name!

Each of these is worthy of a lengthy dissertation. Today, let's consider Thomas.

The tension between doubting and faith is something that confronts every Christian. Sometimes we are vocal about it. Other times we are silent. Sometimes we exhibit a false boldness of faith. Other times we weep at our faithlessness.

As we contemplate Thomas, let us first remember Doubting Peter. No, Peter didn't start by doubting. He began with a boastful faith. On Maundy Thursday, immediately following the Last Supper, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus said, "You will all fall away because of me this night." To this, Peter responded, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away" (Matthew 26:31-33).

Today, Christians are often applauded for testimonies of faith such as Peter's. But Jesus knows the human heart better than we do. To help Peter see the folly of his false confidence, Jesus foretold his threefold denial and the crowing rooster.

Both Thomas and Peter demonstrate the struggle between faith and doubting that confronts us all. On one hand, we may stand up before the greatest challenges of life and declare with Martin Luther, "Take they our life Goods, fame, child, and wife, Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth." Other times, we deny our faith when confronted by a servant girl (Matthew 26:69).

Sometimes doubting is obvious. Hurting Christians question the goodness of God when calamity strikes. We doubt when fervent prayer is not answered according to our own demands. We leave faith behind when success or fiscal responsibility demands it.

Other times our doubting may not be so apparent. We pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done." Yet every time we sin, we are saying, "Lord, I don't believe that Your holy will is best for me. In this case, it is my will that will be done."

On the first Easter evening, Thomas was vocal in his doubting. He demanded physical proof of Jesus' resurrection. The testimony of his fellow disciples would not suffice.

I've seen doubting like this. I'm sure you have, too. We become frustrated and concerned when friends and loved ones lack saving faith. However, we must remember that God has not finished His activities in the lives of the people around us.

Like Thomas, none of us can force ourselves to believe. God must take action to bring us to faith. On the Sunday after the first Easter, the disciples were again gathered in a locked room. This time, Thomas was with them when Jesus came and stood among them. He repeated His greeting of peace. But on this occasion, He came for just one reason. He came to bring Thomas to faith. Can you imagine the joy in Thomas' heart when he heard Jesus say, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe?"

Thomas' confession of faith is one that we all share. Jesus is "my Lord and my God."

But none of us can take credit for this faith. It is a gift of God lest we boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Jesus graciously intervened in Thomas' life so that he would believe and receive eternal life. He does the same for each of us when He sends the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts through word and sacrament. For this reason, we confess with Martin Luther, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." (Luther's Small Catechism, The Explanation of the Third Article.)

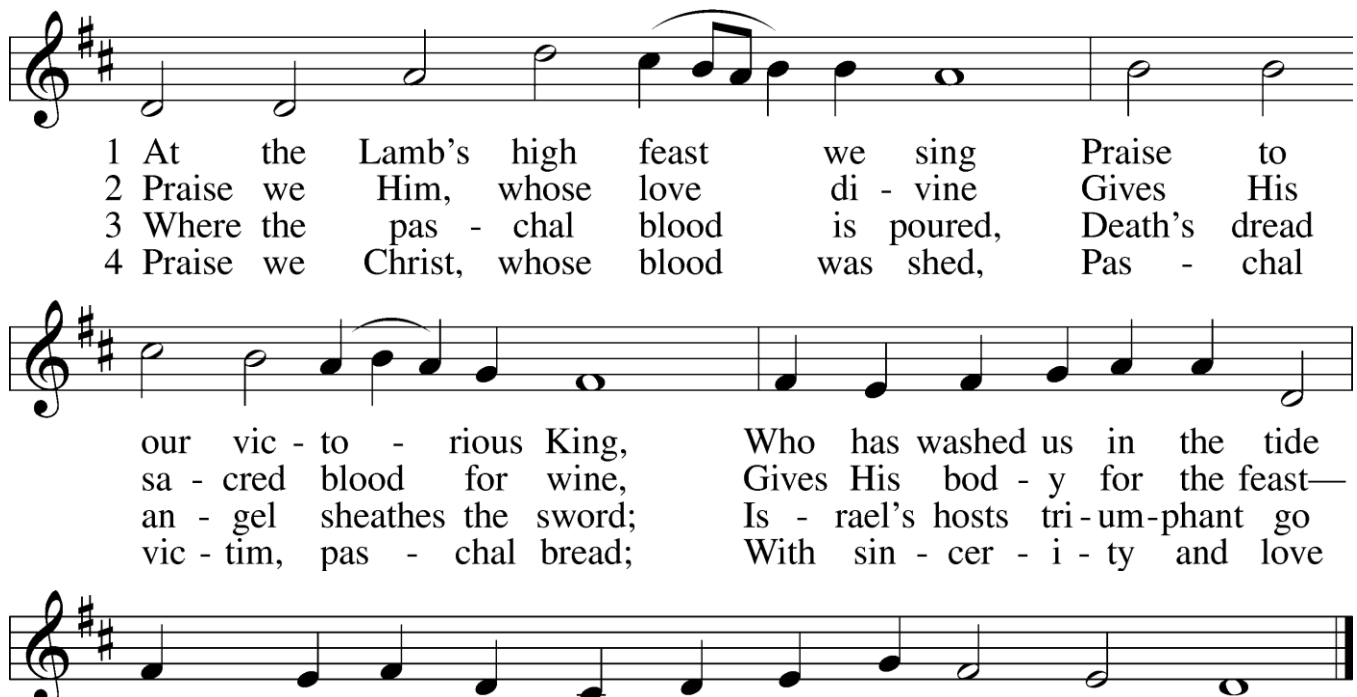
Doubting will always perplex us in this life. All doubting will finally be removed when we join in praising God with the saints in heaven. Until then, this is our prayer, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24 NKJV) as we remember 2 Timothy 2:13, "If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself."

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

**At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing** Lutheran Service Book 633, Lutheran Worship 126, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a  
Stanzas 1-4



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!

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**L** Heavenly Father, You grant us adoption by the resurrection of Your Son. Receive us as Your newborn children and nourish our faith by the pure spiritual milk of Your Word, that we may dwell in Your presence forever, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**L** 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 through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**L** 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,

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, govern the kingdoms of this world according to Your holy and gracious will. Protect those in harm's way because of the war in Ukraine that continues to cause innocent men, women, and children to suffer. Curb what is evil and promote what is good among us wherever we live in this fallen world.

**C** Amen.



**L** Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. We thank You for the protection granted to all who have attended to our needs during this pandemic. Thank You that are experiencing a continuing decline in the number of new infections and an ease of restrictions. Continue to strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from this illness or others. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.

**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 126, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a  
Stanzas 5-8

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!

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!

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!

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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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

## The Second Sunday of Easter

### Quasimodogeniti

### April 25 – April 30, 2021

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

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

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

#### Introit Psalm 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

<b>L</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b>	O Christ,	<b>C</b>	Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	Have Mercy on us.

The Sunday after Easter is called The Second Sunday of Easter. It was previously known as *Quasimodogeniti*. However, an Anglican priest friend of mine informed me that this Sunday is also known as “Low Sunday.” The obvious reason for this name is the historically low attendance on the Sunday after Easter.

I often hear people complain about Christmas and Easter Christians. I never do. I am so happy to have people come and hear the wonderful message of salvation. I always hope that they will come every Sunday. But I am happy if they come on Christmas and Easter, the most wonderful Sundays of the year.

I don’t believe that most of the increase in attendance on Easter is from Christmas and Easter Christians. Yes, there are a few. But from my observation, the increase in attendance comes from families gathering from far away on those special days. It comes from church members who attend every other week, every third week, every fourth week, etc.

What is special about the Sunday after Easter is you can be sure that it is mostly attended by the every-Sunday worshipers. These are the Christians in the family of God who are with you through thick and through thin. These are the ones who, like babies, have a constant desire for the sincere and pure milk of the word of God.

These are the believers who understand the love and forgiveness that is theirs in Christ. These are the ones who cherish the Word of God.

May we always be counted among those who desire the sincere milk of the Gospel that we may grow up to salvation!

**L** Let us pray. Lord, thank You for the gift of the Bible. Grant that we may always be filled with a desire to learn more about You and Your love for us through the preaching and teaching of Your holy word.  
**C** Amen

## Tuesday

### The One Hundred Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

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

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

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

**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. Amen.  
**C** Amen.

I have to warn you. I am an incurable history enthusiast. It's one of my many flaws. History is filled with treasures that enrich our lives and give valuable insight into our human condition.

I love Bible history. I, especially, like learning about the life and times of Jesus. As an extension of that, I love learning about the Greek and Roman society that surrounded the ancient Church. It's fascinating to learn how the Church coped with and even grew during times of oppression.

In my little corner of the Church, there is also much history to learn and appreciate. The founding and growth of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is a fascinating story of passion for the Gospel and a determination to trust God in the face of incredible hardship and difficulties.

Many individuals contributed to the founding of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. All of them had significant roles to play but it's almost certain that the LCMS would not exist without the work and ministry of C. F. W. Walther. Besides being the founding pastor of four congregations in St. Louis, he was the first president of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the first president and professor of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and a prolific author and theologian. He published *Der Lutheraner*, a newspaper that united pastors and congregations leading to the formation of the LCMS. His most enduring work is a book titled, *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*. His focus on Law and Gospel has been a distinguishing feature of my Church.

Jesus always taught with this distinction of Law and Gospel in mind. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly articulated the holy law of God. He made it clear that if we are to be saved by the law, we must be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48). No one is saved by the law! (Romans 3:20). Rather, the law shows us our sin and our need for a savior.

Once we become convinced of our sin, we are ready to turn to Jesus for salvation. The Gospel is the message of salvation through faith in Jesus. It is God's saving power through the cross of Christ (Romans 1:16). Jesus summarized all of this in one verse, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was founded to perpetuate this message of salvation. The Apostle Paul says it this way:

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.<sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law (Romans 3:21-28).

Through God's providence and blessings, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on this date. May God continue to bless it as long as it continues to remain faithful to His word of Law and Gospel. If it should stray, may God send leaders to return it to the clear and pure proclamation of God's word.

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. Amen.

**The Lutheran Witness has published this brief historical sketch of  
the founding of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

<https://witness.lcms.org/2022/die-deutsche-evangelisch-lutherische-synode-von-missouri-ohio-und-andern-staaten/>

## Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

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

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

## Psalm 148

- L** <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
**C** <sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**  
**L** <sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!  
**C** <sup>4</sup>**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**  
**L** <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.  
**C** <sup>6</sup>**And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**  
**L** <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
**C** <sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**  
**L** <sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
**C** <sup>10</sup>**Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**  
**L** <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
**C** <sup>12</sup>**Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**  
**L** <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.  
**C** <sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.  
Praise the LORD!**

## Kyrie

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Christ, | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |

One of my most anticipated joys of attending church on Easter is again singing Alleluia (as transliterated from Greek or halleluiaah as transliterated from Hebrew.) Psalm 148 is filled with Halleluiahs and Hallelus!

As you may recall, halleluiah means “Praise the Lord!”

All of creation praises the Lord. He has done wonderful and marvelous things. The most wonderful and marvelous thing He has done is sent Jesus to be our savior and raised Him from the dead. Praise the Lord because of Jesus’ resurrection, we, too, will rise from the dead and live with Him for all eternity. Praise the Lord. Halleluiah!

Prayer: O Lord, The glorious company of the Apostles : praise Thee.

The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise Thee.

The noble army of Martyrs : praise Thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge Thee,

May we always join our praises with theirs for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Thursday

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

**C** Amen.

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

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Revelation 1:4–18

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

<sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

The Book of Revelation is intriguing, challenging, and sometimes frustrating. It speaks in picture language that we no longer are accustomed to hearing. Interpreting the imagery of Revelation is particularly difficult for us because we do not live in the first century Roman Empire. Revelation was written with a contemporary urgency that spoke to people who were fully in tune with the challenges of living in a hostile culture.

Unfortunately, many individuals in our time have found a home in Revelation for strange teachings that are in conflict with the rest of the Bible. The best piece of advice I have for those reading Revelation is not to worry about anything in the book that you do not understand. It doesn’t say anything that is different from what you all ready know about Jesus and God’s plan of salvation for sinners. Its message is simple. Do not be discouraged when times are bad. God has already won the victory over evil through Jesus’ cross and resurrection. This victory will be completely and finally revealed to us at the end of time when:

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:3-4).

The Epistle this week from Revelation is appropriate for continuing our Easter celebration. Here, John gives us a picture of our resurrected Savior who died but is alive forevermore. He has the keys of Death and Hades. He unlocks hell and opens for us the kingdom of heaven! We know how the story ends!

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we would never become discouraged because of the challenges of life. Give us faith and confidence to trust that Jesus has already won the victory for us. Amen.

## Friday

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

**C** Amen.

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

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Acts 5:12–20

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the

sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

Many people cannot understand why Russia invaded Ukraine. I’m one of them. Daily reports from Ukraine reveal how evil people can be. Why are people doing these things? Similarly, it is hard for me to understand why the high priest and all who were with him chose to arrest the apostles and place them in prison. Their only crime was doing signs and wonders. These two events, plus many others, reveal to us the fact that sometimes we suffer for doing good. When this happens, do not be surprised. God can and does work through all of these obstacles for us.

In the case of the apostles, God chose to intervene by sending an angel to open the prison door. God may not be so dramatic when He comes to your rescue. He may send an angel or He may send patience. Whatever God chooses to do for you, remember the most important thing is for people to learn the words of life that come from Jesus who is the Life! In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:4-5).

During the Easter season, we celebrate that death and the grave could not overcome Jesus. No, through the cross, Jesus overcame sin, death, and the devil. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead proves it. Because He lives, we too shall live!

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the message of salvation we have received from those who were eyewitnesses of Your resurrection. Thank You, that You have brought us to faith through their word. Grant that we, too, may be Your instruments of sharing the message of salvation with those around us. Amen.

## Saturday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**Gradual adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6**

- 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.**

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

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

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**  
**L** O Christ, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**  
**L** O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

The words of the Gradual and Verse of the Day summarize the essence of the Christian faith. Jesus has risen from the dead! He will never die again! He grants this victory over death to all who believe. To this we sing, Alleluia, Alleluia!



When we are trapped by the mundane, when the everyday grind of life seems oppressive, remember that you are destined for eternity in Paradise because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Thanks be to God! Praise the Lord!

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for Jesus and His cross of salvation. Grant that we would never become discouraged by failing to find worldly success. Rather, grant us the joy of boasting in the Lord, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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