

***Second Sunday of Easter***  
**April 11, 2021**

**Prelude**

Christopher A. McCroskey

**Centering Words:**

Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and you may have life in His name.

**Call To Worship:**

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

Dan Greshel

**Refrain**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation.

**Refrain**

4. Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior.

**Refrain**

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989, The  
United Methodist Publishing House, 162.

**Opening Prayer:**

Dear God in Heaven: We thank You for loving us and for blessing us in innumerable ways. We thank You for the gift of Your Son whom You raised from the dead. Please forgive us of our sins, Lord, and please help us to avoid sin, to avoid the ways of the world. Please heal the sick, God, and comfort those who are sad. Please give us strength and guidance. Please also, God, urge us to be of strength, guidance and comfort to others. We ask for these blessings in the name of your Only Begotten Son, Who taught us to pray:

**The Lord's Prayer:**

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. Amen.

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed.

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, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.

**Prayer of Illumination:**

Open our ears that we may hear and our hearts and minds that we may receive your word O Lord our rock and redeemer.

New Testament Reading: Acts 4: 32-35  
Psalter Reading: Psalm 133  
2<sup>nd</sup> New Testament Reading: 1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 1-2:2

**Special Music**

Christopher A. McCroskey

Gospel Reading: John 20: 19-31  
Sermon: "Our Lord and Our God"

Tom Geddens

**Hymn:**

*Up from the Grave He Arose*

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

**Refrain**

Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

**Refrain**

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;  
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

**Refrain**

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989, The  
United Methodist Publishing House, 322.

**Benediction:**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen!

**Response:**

*God Be with You till We Meet Again*  
God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989, The United  
Methodist Publishing House, 673.

## Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*  
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* Soloist: *Dan Greshel*  
Church Musician

Kathy Aiello Oren Edwards Patsy Shuler Dean Frye Lynn Martin Kelsey Tolliver  
Steve White Latson Lewis George Taylor Steve Aiello Brandon Jones

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace;  
Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

**Family and Friends:** *Lisa Baghdady (a friend of Edwa Meek); Chip Hooker (Wayne Hooker's father); Robert Bradley (Business Associate of Simon Ross); Dave Burrell (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); Gene Odom (grandfather of Mark Branham); Gary Becton (friend of Mark Branham); Audrey Cassidy (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); Rusty Browning (friend of Erin Derrick); Monnie Tiller, Mrs. Miles, Jerry Fowler (friends of Chris Derrick); Donna Walker (coworker of Jack Stevens); Kelly Knapp (wife of Laurie Knapp's nephew); Paul Kidney (son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill); Ruby Pennington (friend of Laurie Knapp); Sara Krisnow (niece of Marty Johnson); Rick Baldwin (nephew of Tommy Johnson); Judy Bauer (cousin of Marty Johnson); Iris Turlington (aunt of John Zeigler); Betty Jean Newton (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); ; Tonya Spires (friend of the Derricks); Vivian Almendinger (great-niece of Christopher McCroskey); J. B. & Stephanie Martindale (cousins of Christopher McCroskey); Linda Hargett (stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); Ollie Shelly (friend of the Derricks); Brenlee Carnes; Danielle Spotts (co-worker of Kathy White); Vickie Edwards (neighbor of Kathy White); George Duke, Vicki Beatty, Connie Mason, Brenda Grier (friends of Lynn Martin); Heather Stevens, Diane Kelsey, Erma Ruff, David Price & Family, Mark Leonhart, Ty Moore, George Dorn (friends of Kay Jordan); Teddy Derrick (uncle of Arvan Derrick); Haidee Baehr (friends of Ruth Frady); Dianne Schmotzer (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); Dan Connor, Denise Paul (cousin of Gale Frady); Billy Johnson. Max Johnson (friends of Gale Frady); Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); Amelia Zinski (great-niece of Linda Maloch); Wayne Blair (son of Dot Johnson); Xavier Crane (grandnephew of John Ballentine); Janet Beck (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); Vera Von Glahn ( sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); Michael Carter (son of Esther Carter); Adam Lavender (son of Phil Lavender)*

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

### OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 04/04 Worship: 42

### OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/04 \$ 6,605.00

### OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."



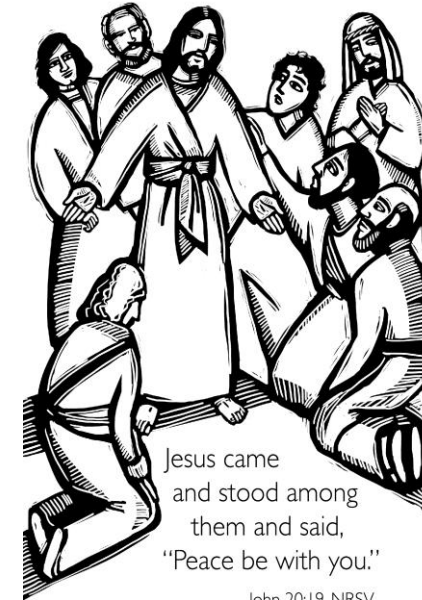
Ministers  
Pastor  
Resident Bishop  
District Superintendent

The Congregation  
John D. Jordan  
Jonathan Holston  
Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

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***Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.***

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and  
Transform***



John 20:19, NRSV

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## **“Our Lord and Our God”**

**By Tom Geddens**

(Sermon starts following the reading of John 20: 19-31)

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life, which is the gift of Your Only Begotten Son Who died for our copious sins. It is in His precious name that we pray. Amen.

John’s Gospel has several qualities that set it apart from the other three Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. For one thing, John allows some of his fellow apostles to speak whose voices we did not get to hear in any of the three prior Gospels. Those heretofore silent apostles included Andrew, Philip, Nathanael (whom many believe was the same disciple as Bartholomew), Judas the son of James, and Thomas, whom we just heard in our Gospel reading.

This makes me wonder if Thomas or any of the other disciples who did not have any lines recorded in the earlier Gospels approached John as he was writing his Gospel and said, “Hey, John! How about giving me some dialogue, man! Nothing against Matthew, Mark and Luke, but I did talk from time to time back in those days!”

Another revelation that John shares that Matthew, Mark and Luke neglected to mention is the fact that Thomas was known by a nickname: He was called the Twin.

But why was he called the Twin? Some have speculated that Thomas earned his nickname because he bore a striking physical resemblance to Jesus. The most popular theory, however, is that Thomas was called the Twin simply because he had a twin brother or sister. This has made me wonder over the years when I read John 6: 66, which says, “From that time many of Jesus’s disciples went back and walked with Him no more,” if perhaps one of those disciples who dropped out was Thomas’s twin sibling.

When Thomas placed his finger into the nail-print in Jesus’s palm and into the wound in His side where the Roman’s spear had punctured his flesh, he blurted out, “My Lord and My God!” I think when I first read that, and, who knows, maybe the first three or four times, I let myself take the easy way out. You know: I went for the simple answer. Maybe even the dumb answer. I just thought that Thomas was so taken aback, that he was saying “My Lord and My God!” the way we today would say, “Oh, my God!” As if Thomas was a first-century Palestinian valley girl! Yes, you would have to be a child of the Eighties like me to get that.

But as my faith grew over the years and my reading of the Gospel of John multiplied, at some point I thought, “No, Thomas may have been surprised, but his choice of words was no accident. I need to look beneath the surface and find the deeper meaning.”

And speaking of finding the deeper meaning: You all have a homework assignment! When you have some time, get on the Internet, and type these words on the search line: “What did Thomas mean by ‘My Lord and My God?’” Or just simply type, “My Lord and My God.” Trust me, there is no shortage of commentaries on the subject out there! But for the sake of brevity, and every decent sermon should strive for brevity, I am going to give you my quick take!

John tells us that Thomas was called the Twin. John does not tell us, however, if that was meant figuratively or literally. I am not saying that this is how Thomas came to be called the Twin, but I do believe that it is fitting, because he was one of the first to articulate the twin nature of Jesus Christ. Thomas could now finally say that Jesus Christ was fully human and fully divine. In his book “All the Apostles of the Bible,” the late British pastor and author Herbert Lockyer wrote that the words of Thomas recorded in John 20: 28 marked the only time in the New Testament that someone directly addressed our Lord Jesus as God. Mr. Lockyer also wrote, “This is the grandest, strongest and shortest witness in the New Testament to what Jesus was and is.”

This is one of the questions that gets debated when Christians and even non-Christians discuss John 20:28: When Thomas said, “My Lord and My God,” was he addressing one person or two? When you do your homework and take to the Internet, you may find in some places, that question can be hotly debated! If you want to play it safe, you can say, “Both!” and I do not think that you would be wrong. But I am going to go with: Thomas was addressing one person. For one thing, it was one Person Who stood before him. When Thomas said, “My Lord,” he was referring to Jesus Christ, Who is Our Lord and Savior, the Son of God, the One whom John said at the beginning of his Gospel was the Word of God made flesh, Whom His Father in Heaven sent to die for our copious sins so that we could escape our rightful punishment for those sins, a grace from Heaven that none of us deserve.

When Thomas said, “My God,” he referred to our Father in Heaven, Who made each one of us in His image, but He begot only One True Son, and although He sent His Only Begotten Son to die for us, He raised Him up from the dead and brought Him up to Heaven to sit at His right side. Our God is the One True God Who is triune in nature: Comprised of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

But putting them both together, “My Lord and My God,” Thomas was finally acknowledging Jesus’s oneness with God, something that Jesus had been trying to get across to both His disciples and to the scribes and the Pharisees, more often without much success. By declaring “My Lord and My God!” Thomas finally saw what Jesus meant when Jesus told His disciples during the Last Supper, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.”

That great theologian Martin Luther cited the Gospel of John as the greatest of the Gospels. One of his reasons for doing so was that Luther liked the fact that John recorded fewer of Jesus’s miracles than did his three peers. Luther also found it indispensable that John instead placed greater emphasis on salvation through faith in Christ alone.

Luther’s impression of John’s Gospel can be summed up by John himself, in how he closed the next-to-last chapter in his Gospel, the last verse of Scripture that I read today, John 20: 31: “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

John is saying, “Yes, I only covered a handful of the miracles that our Lord Jesus performed. But you know what? What few miracles that I covered are all that you need to know that Jesus was and is fully human and fully God, and if you believe in Him, you may have eternal life in His name.”

Brothers and sisters, I know that I do not have to remind any of you that since May of last year and up until now, April of 2021, our country has undergone a profound change. This change has had profound implications: economically, socially and spiritually. I know that I am going to offend a lot of people with what I am about to say, but I was a skeptic about this pandemic right from the beginning and I have yet to have become a true believer. Yes, I wear the mask when I am out in public. I do not want to get fined. I do not want to go to jail. I do not want someone getting up in my face, yelling at me to put on a mask. I have gone along to get along, I guess you could say. When I describe myself as a skeptic with regards to this pandemic, I am not saying that I do not believe that the disease exists. I know it does. We have sadly lost two members of our church family who were in their eighties to this disease.

But the reason why I put myself down as a skeptic is because I question whether every dramatic change that we have made to our everyday lives for a year now has been necessary and if it has saved any lives. Was our dramatic reaction to this disease worth so many small businesses going out of business and so many livelihoods being lost? I question that.

This upheaval that we have gone through was done out of an ostensible concern for our earthly lives. Now please understand that I am not advising that we all behave flippantly when it comes to our earthly lives. I am not saying that we should live our lives as if no harm will ever come to us.

But let us not neglect the importance of being concerned with our eternal lives. Our Father God raised Jesus Christ up from the grave three days after He had died on a Roman cross. God conquered death! God will raise us up from the dead, too, but we first must do what John advised in John 20: 31: We must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is in believing in His name that we may receive the gift from God of eternal life. Put your trust and faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in our Heavenly Father, the One True God.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen!