John 21:2 (NIV84) Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

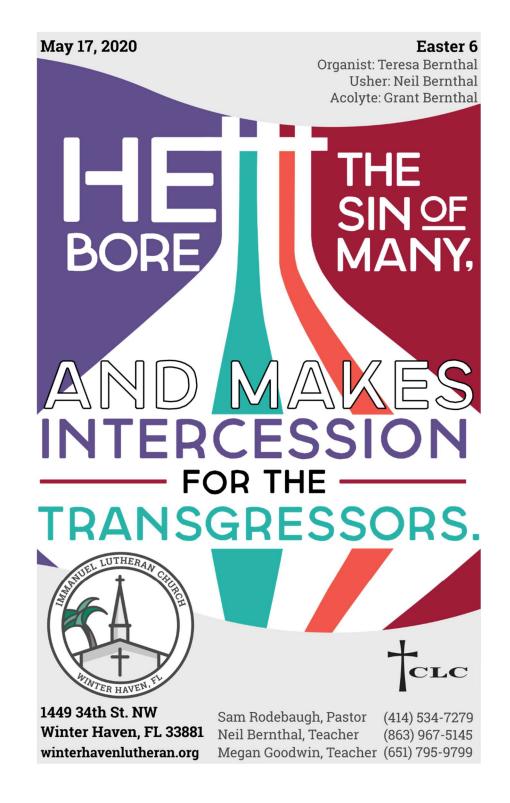
And Two Others

Simon Peter we know. James and John, the sons of Zebedee, we know. They formed the inner circle who were privileged to witness the raising of Jairus' daughter. They alone had witnessed Jesus' meeting with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. They were Jesus' special companions in the Garden of Gethsemane. Surely this group would receive Christ's special attention after He was risen from the dead. And Thomas had already received special attention from Jesus a week after Easter, while Nathanael had from the start been declared by the Savior to be "a true Israelite in whom there is no guile" (John 1:47). It is not difficult to imagine such pillars of the New Testament church being sought out again by Jesus.

But there were two others, whom John did not bother to name. We know of nothing special that they had done or witnessed. They could just as well have been you and me, who are also not recorded by name in the New Testament! And therein lies our great comfort. Jesus does not stay away because a couple of common folk are in the group. He comes also to you and me. He died for us, too, and freely forgives our sins, too. He comforts us in sorrow, strengthens us in weakness, heals us in sickness, and promises to be with us always, no less than He did for Peter, James, John, Andrew, Phillip, Nathanael, Thomas, Matthew, James of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot.

I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace.

- CLC Daily Devotions: May 13, 2020



¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰ The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

→ Order of Divine Worship →

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #206:1-3 "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P Pastor

Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- **©** ✓ Who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.
- Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the



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.

HYMN: TLH #444 "Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"

SERMON – Romans 8:23-28 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

All You Need to Know is that God Knows

I. We are weak and uncertain II. God is strong and certain

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #226:1,4-6,9 "Come, Oh, Come . . . Spirit"

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

- The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

HYMN: Next Page

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

INTROIT

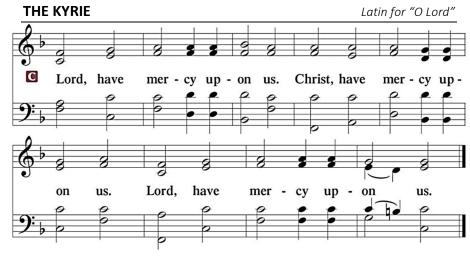
Is. 48:20; Ps. 66:1-2, 17, 19-20

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P With a voice of singing, declare this with a shout of joy to the end of the earth! Alleluia. The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob! Alleluia.
- **©** Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name.
- P I cried to Him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.
- But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- P Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!



P Alleluia. Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

- All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!
- P Let us pray. . . . You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 29:11-14 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

GOSPEL READING – **John 17:1-19** When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I

glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. 6 "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.