



# ABOUT THE PROPERS

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026



Exactly What I Need: Life

The Second Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as “*Quasimodogeniti*” Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit of the day (i.e. the opening verses): “Like (*quasi modo*) newborn babies (*geniti*), crave the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow up with the result being salvation” (1 Peter 2:2).

Thomas had been taught and trained by Jesus himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Yet, even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, who all saw the resurrected Lord, Thomas had doubts. In love, Jesus appeared to Thomas to strengthen his faith, giving him proof of the mind-bending reality of the resurrection—to let him feel it, touch it, explore it. Jesus didn’t reject Thomas. Jesus engaged Thomas and gave him peace. Still today, Jesus comes to his disciples in Word and sacrament. The living Lord speaks to us. He lets us partake of his true body and blood. When we show weakness of faith, he does not reject us. Just as he did with Thomas, Jesus engages us and gives us proof and peace.

### Prayer of the Day

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### First Lesson <sup>1</sup> Acts 2:14a,22-32

Jesus told Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” However, Jesus had good reason to let the disciples see him with their own eyes: they were to be his witnesses. When Peter stood before the crowds on Pentecost, we see the purpose for all the resurrection appearances of Jesus. He showed himself to them; he ate and drank with them; he let them touch his flesh and bones; he showed them his holy wounds. Jesus let them see and touch because they weren’t just looking for themselves. No, these eleven would be the witnesses of the bodily resurrection of Christ for all ages. Through the eyes of these eleven men, God gives his Church the gift of proof and the gift of peace.

### Second Reading <sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 1:3-9

What brings more doubt into our lives than grief or sorrow? “Why did this happen to me?” “How could God let my loved one die?” “When will this sickness stop?” Grief and sorrow raise doubts about God’s love and God’s plan for our lives. Peter points us to the resurrection as proof of the living hope we have regardless of our outward circumstances. We may doubt when we face trials, but the trials themselves prove the genuineness of our faith. Faith clings to a Savior we have not seen, but love. And this unseen Savior gives us the inexpressible joy of proof and peace even in the face of doubt.

### Gospel <sup>1</sup> John 20:19-31

Peace was one thing the disciples did not have. They had questions, concerns, and doubts. But they had no peace that Easter evening as they huddled behind locked doors. Jesus was dead—killed on a Roman cross—and now fear held them in its icy grip. They lacked more than peace of mind; the disciples also lacked any peace of spirit. Shame hung heavy on their shoulders. Grief and guilt weighed down their hearts. They had great doubts about their Lord, their lives, their salvation. But then Jesus came! In the face of all their doubts he offered proof that he was alive and sin was dead. Jesus showed them his nail-marked hands and riven side. These holy wounds are the proof positive that God is at peace with us.

Psalm of the Day <sup>4</sup>

Psalm 16 B

“This Is the Day”

The Church sings Psalm 16 in services that celebrate the resurrection of the dead. Peter (Acts 2:25-32) and Paul (Acts 13:35) both quote the psalm as a reference to Jesus. Martin Luther said, “The sixteenth psalm is a prophecy of the suffering and resurrection of Christ. It clearly shows that he would cast off the old law with its sacrifices as idolatry, and has chosen believers for a beautiful inheritance.”

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Ever since Christ’s ascension, this is how the Holy Spirit brings souls to faith – through the preaching and hearing of his Word. Faith comes from hearing the message, and whoever believes has everlasting life.

Hymn of the Day

456 “O Sons and Daughters of the King” (Jean Tisserand, d. 1494)

This hymn is a narrative Easter carol; it begins with the Easter gospel from Matthew 28:1-10 (w1-3) and concludes with the doubting Thomas story from John 20:19-29 (w4-8). Because the narrative covers two Easter season Sundays, the verses can be divided as follows: for Easter Sunday morning, verses 1-3, 5, and 8; for Easter evening, verses 1-4 and 8; for the second Sunday of Easter (which usually includes the doubting Thomas story), verses 1 and 4-8.

Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

Easter

After forty days of repentance and prayer, the Church bursts forth in jubilant praise at the Resurrection of our Lord. The alleluias and glorias which were muted for Lent ring out again as the Bride of Christ welcomes her Bridegroom back from the dead. Easter is as the pinnacle of the Church Year, the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

Colors & Symbolism

White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Traditions & Customs

The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning “having to do with the Passover,” is a word associated with Easter. It was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the “Pasch”) that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes sin and death (Ex 12; 1 Cor 6:6-8). The candle is lit for services during Easter to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among us. The candle is also lit for Baptisms and funerals, reminding us of our resurrection to eternal life.

Main Paraments

Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is a taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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