

AS WE GATHER

Thomas had missed out. He wasn't there with the other disciples when the risen Jesus appeared that first Easter night to show them His hands and side. Thomas was absent when Jesus breathed on them with His Spirit and sent them out to proclaim His forgiveness. It's no wonder then that when Thomas heard about this encounter, he wanted to see Jesus for himself. One week after Christ's resurrection, Thomas had his opportunity. He saw. He touched. He believed. He confessed: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Our risen Jesus is here again. As we gather in His presence for worship today, may He fill us with great joy as we continue to celebrate His resurrection victory and confess Him as our Lord and God!

Today is your opportunity—don't miss out! It's time for you to hear the words of Jesus again – those red letters of the Bible – and then ACT! We see. We touch. We believe. We confess. Join us as we take the **RED LETTER CHALLENGE!** Seek to hear Jesus' words and then act on them as part of a 40-day challenge this Easter season.

Gathering Song Shine, Jesus, Shine

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song Alleluia Sing To Jesus LSB 821 vv1,2,4

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in

like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87 Text and tune: Public domain

Call To Worship

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Pastor: Let us worship the eternal God, who creates.
People: The source of our BEING, of our love, of our life.
Pastor: Let us worship Jesus Christ, who saves.
People: The risen one, who nailed our sin to the cross, FORGIVING us.
Pastor: Let us worship the Spirit, who shapes faith.
People: The holy fire, who renews our SERVING, GIVING, and GOING.
Pastor: To the one true God be praise
People: in all times and all places! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: As far as the east is from the west,
People: so far has God removed our sin from us.
Pastor: With humble hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Faithful Father, have mercy on us. We have failed to obey Your commands. Loving Savior, have mercy on us. Wash us clean in Your saving blood. Comforting Spirit, have mercy on us. Restore us to be Your own. Amen.

Pastor: Your God is a **FORGIVING** God! The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. God's grace assures you that everything has been taken care of. There is no sin too big that God did not die for on the cross. The empty tomb of Easter Sunday proves this payment was accepted by our Heavenly Father. In Christ, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, as we celebrate the triumph of our risen Savior
People: help us join with all other witnesses of the resurrection in boldly sharing that Jesus is Lord and God!
Pastor: This we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

Reader

Judy Baggenstoss

Gospel Reading

John 20:19–31

(Jesus Appears to the Disciples)

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

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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.**" ²⁷ 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.”

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

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

Reader: The words of Jesus. **RED LETTERS** that form our **BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, and GOING.**

People: **Help me Jesus, to faithfully hear your words and put them into practice. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Song of the Day By Our Love (They’ll Know We Are Christians)

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

Chorus And they’ll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land **(Chorus)**

CCLI Song # 6186078 Rend Collective Experiment © 2011 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1530621

Sermon **The Red Letter Challenge: The Five Principles** *Pastor Aaron Boerst*

Creed – APOSTLE’S 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, 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.**

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Gracious God, You are exalted over all things in heaven and on earth. In Your mercy, You shower us with blessings of both body and soul as You care for Your creation. Enable us to see Your hands at work that, together with all those who share in the power of Your Son’s resurrection, we always say of You:

People: **You alone are Lord and God!**

Pastor: Giver of life, You renew our souls through the power of Your Holy Spirit. As we continue to celebrate the joy of our Savior's Easter victory, help Your Church on earth always speak Your Word with boldness and confidence like the first eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection.

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: You govern all nations with Your mighty and merciful hand, O Lord. Show Your favor to the country in which we live, raising up men and women who will serve as godly leaders among us; blessing those who make, administer, and judge our laws; protecting all those who serve in harm's way for the benefit of others; and helping us always to know and believe:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: In Your Son's earthly ministry, people brought to Him all those who were sick and suffering that He might touch and heal them. This ministry of healing continued through His disciples in the earliest church. Even now, we know that Jesus heals, renews, and restores through the Baptism and Holy Supper He has provided for our benefit. Place Your healing hand upon those for in need. In the shadow of Your healing presence, we boldly confess:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: Prepare the hearts of all those who will receive You at Your Table this day, O Lord. Help us to cast aside all bitterness and pride, laying our burdens down at the foot of Christ's cross. Because He lives in triumph over death and the grave, we experience His life-giving presence as we are gathered in His name to remember His sacrifice. Grant that all who share in His body and blood look upon Him, trust in Him, and always say of Him:

People: You alone are Lord and God!

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

Offering Sanctuary

Chorus: O Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

It was you Lord, who gave the Savior

Heart and soul, Lord, to every man

It is you, Lord who knows my weakness

You refine me with Thine own hand **(Chorus)**

"Sanctuary," words and music by John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs © 1982 Whole Armor Publishing Company. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. *[Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]*

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

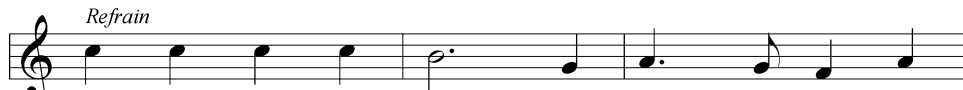
The Lamb



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.



Refrain
Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953 Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858

O Blessed Spring LSB 595



1 O bless - ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953 Tune: English Text: © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Tune: Public domain

Announcements

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Sending Song **How Great Thou Art LSB 801**



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"



Refrain
 Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989 Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989 Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989 Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858

Pastor: May God's Word shape your **BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, and GOING!**

People: **Amen.**