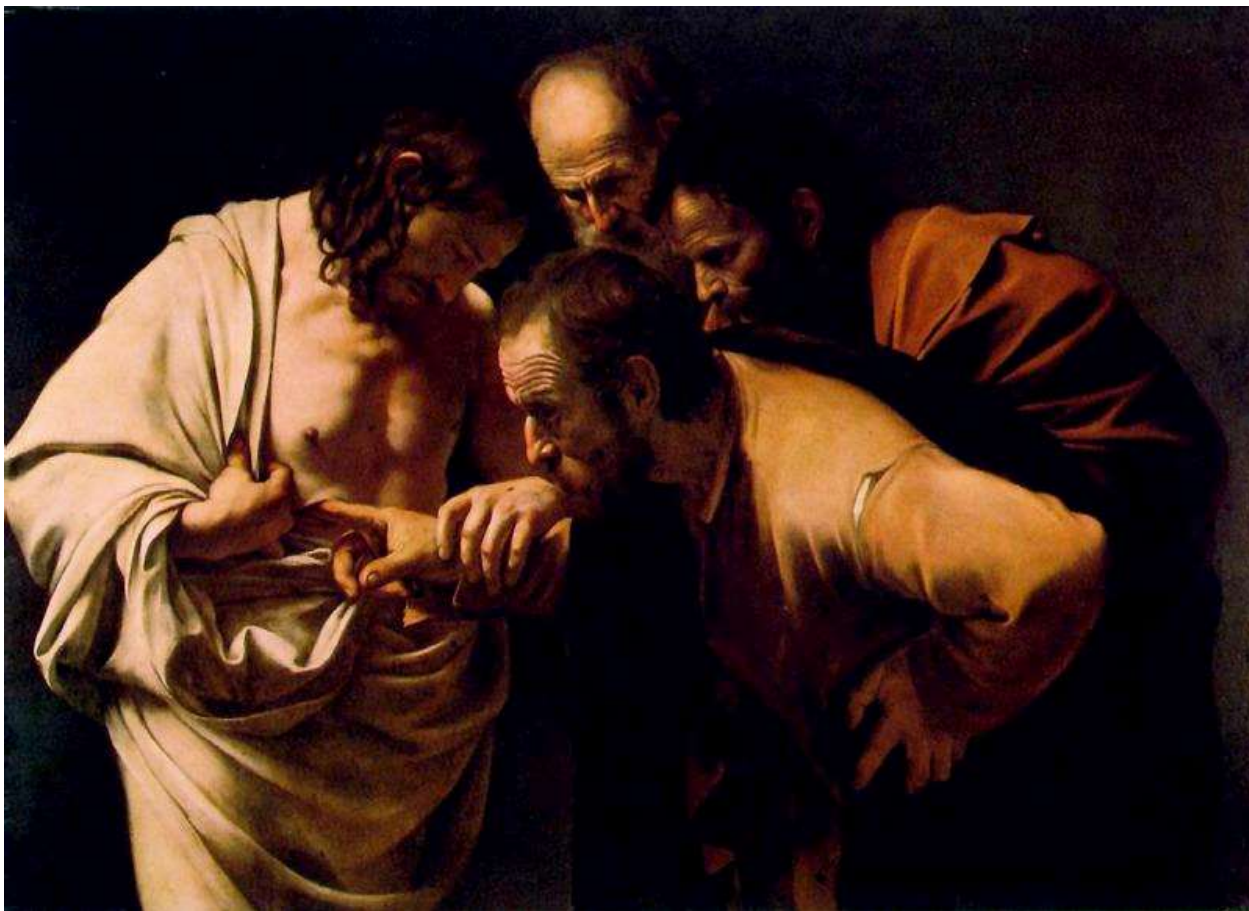


SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 10 & 13, 2024



Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." - John 20:27



"The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" By Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, 1601

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS”

URW 378

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

St. Minister: The bonds of death could not hold Jesus.

All: We hid in fear, but now we are dancing in the streets.

St. Minister: Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is here with us.

All: We were silent in fear, but now we are announcing, “Christ is risen!”

*OPENING HYMN

“GOD IS HERE!” (vs. 1, 2, 4)

NCH 70

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

Presider In confidence and faith in God’s mercy, let us confess our wrongs that we may receive grace.

All: Gracious God, you give us new life, but we choose the ways of death. You breathe peace upon us, yet we pursue conflict. You seek us out when we are afraid, yet we cling to our fears.

St. Minister Forgive us for turning away from you.

[Pause for a time of silent confession]

St. Minister Shine your light upon us and banish all shadows, that we may live faithfully and joyfully for you.

Presider Friends of God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. Rejoice in the good news: In the name of Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“BE BELIEVING”

TAMARA HILL MURPHY

A poem about the disciple Thomas and his encounter with the Risen Christ written by Tamara Hill Murphy, who writes “to make friends with the ancient, present and future.”

Later on
that day / the dark room
was enough
to concoct buttoned down,
in our minds.

While we lingered bolted-in,
shut-up / You
breezed past barricade as One
hole-pocked / exhaled
absolution, a hot gust
peace be with you;
materialized new --
as Yourself / awake & alive
after the woman's claim
you spoke her name.

afraid / our fingers
traced your split side
'til we inhaled
Your closer breathing,
our truer air.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Holy God, you are the way, the truth, and the life. By the power of your Holy Spirit speak your word to us, that we might know you more deeply and love you more faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 20, verses 19 through 31.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON**REV. DR. CHRIS RANKIN - APR. 10****DR. JULIA O'BRIEN - APR. 13****PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY****STUDENT MINISTER**

God, whose steadfast love endures forever, we come with joy to behold your works, to witness your resurrection, and to praise your holy name.

Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.

When we are trapped in our own tombs of illness, hunger, addiction, or despair:

Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.

When we are the ones yelling, “Crucify!” hurting others, harming your creation:

Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.

When we cannot believe the good news, feeling hopeless and helpless:

Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.

When we are mourning those we’ve lost, with pain poisoning our good memories:

Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.

When we are frightened by sudden change, unable to see the possibilities ahead:

Living Savior, raise us to new life in you.

Bring us home, resurrected Christ.

Gather us, restore us, raise us to new life in you. Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy God, Three-in-One, you spoke the world into being
and breathed your own Spirit into us.

You have journeyed with us through famines,
rescued us from oppression,
and delivered us to freedom.

Even when we forgot you,
you did not forget us,
calling us back through your prophets
and reminding us of your promises.

Thank you for your faithfulness from generation to generation and
especially for your Son, Jesus Christ. He walks with us along the way and
makes our hearts burn with his teaching. He breaks bread with us and
opens our eyes to see your grace. He anoints us with your healing and
pours out your love with abandon.

At their last meal together Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave
it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat; this is my body that is for you. Do
this in remembrance of me.” Thank you for this bread of life that Jesus
blesses and shares, his very own body.

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new
covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of
me.”

Thank you for this cup of salvation, poured out for our forgiveness, his very own blood. By the power of your Spirit, make these gifts a holy meal. Nourish us, restore us, and equip us to do your will.

Our hearts and hands are yours, O Lord, dedicated to your service, an offering of praise.

Keep us ever faithful until that day when we will gather at your table in glory, celebrating with all your children a feast of endless love.

All honor and praise to you, holy God, Three-in-One, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free. Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers, and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

“I COME WITH JOY”

NCH 349

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

Gracious God, thank you for this feast! You lay a table for us in the face of all our enemies; you feed us with the bread of life and quench our thirst with the wine of gladness.

You nourish us with your presence and renew our hope in your future. All thanks and praise to you, O God, giver of life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cover Art: Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da, 1573-1610. The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54170> [retrieved July 26, 2023]

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**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor*

THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.