

WELCOMING WORD *The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: How good and how pleasant it is,

C: when kindred live together in unity!

L: It is like fine oil upon the head flowing down upon the beard,

C: upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

L: It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion

C: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forever.

OPENING HYMN #147 Hallelujah! Jesus lives! (vs. 1-2, & 4-5)

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
From the gloomy halls of death, Christ, the conqueror, has gone
Bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.

Jesus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mournful sigh?
He who died our brother, here lives our brother still on high.
Lives forever to bestow blessings on his church below.

Jesus lives! Let all rejoice. Praise him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise him in a nobler song, cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the victor king, whose sway sin and death and hell obey.

Hallelujah! Angels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strain which our feeble voices raise;
Glory to our God above and on earth his peace and love!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God,

C: with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:32-35 ³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 1:1-2:2 ¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life- ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us- ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 ¹⁹When it was evening on the day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #145 *Thine Is the Glory*

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son!
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away;
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

REFRAIN Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son: Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee, Risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! **REFRAIN**

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life;
Life is nought without thee. Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **REFRAIN**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You place within the hearts of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the need of others (*especially*). Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

P: You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community of ELC. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayer to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #170 Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1-4)

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne;
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the virgin's son, the God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn.
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem;
The root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hand and side.
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!



Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Mary Krantz, Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Bruflat, Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt), Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

OUR SYMPATHIES & PRAYERS are with Lynn Festge & family. Lynn's mother, Betty Finner, died on March 22.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM We will resume our online Sunday School on **April 11th at 9:00am.**

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION Our 7th and 8th graders will meet in person on **April 14th at 7:00pm at ELC.** Please wear a mask.

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesday, April 13th at 7:00pm.** A great time to enjoy an Outdoor Scavenger Hunt. Please wear a mask. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person!

PRE-CONFIRMATION (6th Graders) - Wednesdays, **April 14th - May 12th, 3:45 - 4:45 PM** (5 sessions) at ELC. These gatherings are intended to enhance our Confirmation experience. Please wear a mask. Sign up by emailing Brenda.

NO ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on Zoom Coffee Time will be taking a break from Zoom on April 14th. Watch for announcements about Coffee Time plans.

STARLA'S SEASONINGS Youth Fundraiser for April 5th - May 2nd Starla's seasoning blends are as unique as their names and are sure to complement any event. These seasonings are made in Wisconsin, made with the finest quality ingredients.



TO ORDER: Complete the **SIGN UP LINK** below OR order at church after the worship services (April 11, 18, 25) **ONLINE SIGN UP LINK:** <https://forms.gle/y5voPtvH5LqjCRVYA> Funds raised will go towards our youth summer trips, the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022 and a mission trip.

CONFIRMATION CAMP (SAVE THE DATE) ELC will be attending the Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp the week of July 25 - July 30. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to attend. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>.

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 135, Praise for God's Goodness and Might

Tuesday, Daniel 6:1-28, Daniel in the Lion's Den

Wednesday, Isaiah 26:1-15, Judah's Song of Victory

Thursday, Psalm 4, Plea for Deliverance from Enemies

Friday, 1 John 2:26-28, Warning against Antichrists

Saturday, Luke 22:24-30, The Dispute about Greatness

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "Then [Jesus] 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!" John 20:27-28. *After his resurrection he has appeared to his disciples while Thomas was not present and he did not seem to believe when the others told him what had happened until Jesus returned when he was present. Jesus appeared to Thomas and showed him what he needed to in order that he believes and in return Thomas then realizes and claims Jesus as his Lord and God.*

- What questions, fears, or doubts might you have today?
- Jesus meets you where you are at. Have you noticed him in your life recently?
- Have you ever boldly claimed that God was in your presence?
- How did you come to believe in God & Jesus?

PRAY: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESS: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.