

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com
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Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE: A prayer for peace in the midst of conflict.

Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have been our life in the midst of death, and our peace where there is no peace. Look upon Your servants in Ukraine and Russia with Your grace and assure them that in the darkness of political unrest You remain the Light of the World.

Dearest Jesus, through the cross you defeated all that keeps us from the peace that passes understanding. In these tense days, we pray, be the Good Shepherd of Your flock in Eastern Europe and around the world and give all persons and countries aching from social and political turmoil Your Good News of sins forgiven, and life restored. Holy Spirit, You gather us into Your Church where we are made new by Your Holy Word. Keep us from civil strife, from the aggressive spilling of blood, and turn back all misfortunes that lead to hostility and death. Grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict; soften the hearts of the unmerciful and bring them to the knowledge of You. Triune God, grant peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, and in Your whole Church on earth, that with one heart and mind we may sing Your praises, and have peace at the last, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE TODAY: Psalm 150: 6 <https://youtu.be/O75iTKJaR7Y>

Children's Message: In-service Children's Messages will resume Sundays during the early service. Please be aware that during recorded services, the children will be heard but no actual video will be taken, the camera will be focused on a still shot.

Organist: Mayumi Munoz
Readers: 9 a.m. —Lorraine Bogusat 11 a.m. — Fran Porteous
Greeters: 9 a.m. ---Judy Slingerland 11 a.m. ---

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube – "Gathering the Scattered" at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
- Archived videos of Sunday's service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – "Worship" page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 11 Tim. 1: 6-10 Wed.: 1 Pet. 1: 22-25 Friday: 1 Pet. 1:3-9
Tuesday: 11 Tim. 2: 1-5 Thurs: 1 Tim. 1: 12-17 Saturday: Jonah 2: 1-11

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children's Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 150: 6.

BAPTISM: We are happy to welcome **Lilyan Elsie Mae Zacharuk** into Christ's family by Holy Baptism today at our early service. Daughter of Kimberly Zacharuk and granddaughter of Barb Zacharuk, Godparents are Catharine Zacharuk and David Bratton. May God bless Lilyan with a lifetime of rich blessing and protection.

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE: Wednesday, April 27th, 6 - 6:30 p.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church -- The Elders of Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Catharines invite you to join them in a brief service of prayer, this time focusing on the war in Ukraine, our Missionary Oleksiy Navrotskyy, and his fellow workers. Plan to pause your day for just half an hour and join us in the seminary chapel to lay these concerns before our heavenly Father. Any offerings given will go to Lutheran Church-Canada's Ukraine Aid Fund, from which they are sent directly to our Lutheran pastors in Ukraine who distribute aid where needed.



Plant Sale, Baked Goods & Yard Sale!! (with candy floss after noon)

Saturday, May 7th - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church

105 Welland Road, Fonthill (corner of South Pelham),

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Rev. Dr. John Nunes, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville NY, originally from Hamilton, ON [who preached for Pastor Todd's installation] will be coming to Christ Lutheran on **MAY 24! From 7-9 PM** he is giving a "book talk" work shop style in the sanctuary on his 2020 paperback, "MEANT FOR MORE". Pastor Todd has some copies to share with any who would like to read ahead before he arrives. More information yet to come. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone, is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on "**Joy, Patience, Prayer**" which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12) *Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!*

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**. The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY>

Last Sunday Attendance: April 17th, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 60; 11 A.M. – 79; Total: 139

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Weekly Need</u> | <u>Last Sunday</u> | <u>Year To Date</u> | <u>+ or – (--)</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Current: | 283,291.00 | 5,554.73 | 6,542.00 | 65,474.79 | (21,691.67) |
| LCC Missions | 20,000.00 | 392.16 | 356.00 | 4,374.00 | (1,779.85) |
| Property Improvement: | | | 179.00 | 2,026.00 | |

EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED: we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided] We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

GREETERS: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

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THE MARY MARTHA is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and placed in an envelope designated for "LWML Ontario District Medical Missions". Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Childen
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines – Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandag

NEW MORNING PRAISE

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia Modern Matins

April 24, 2022 -- 9 AM worship

BAPTISMAL SONG:

“Baptized in Water”

“Praise & Thanksgiving” tune

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now His praises we sing**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now His praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now His praises we sing.**

Words: Michael Saward (1932-); © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/b/b001.html>

+ Baptism of Lilyan Elsie Mae Zacharuk+

Parent: Kim Zacharuk

Sponsors: Catharine Zacharuk

David Bratton

ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Resources

SCRIPTURAL COMMAND:

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep everything I have entrusted to you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Through baptism God graciously forgives us our sins and unites us with our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we share in His death and resurrection.

GOSPEL ADDRESS:

As people brought children to Jesus that He might touch them, the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this He was extremely angry. He said: Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; unless you receive the Kingdom of God like a little child you shall never enter it.

PRESENTATION:

Who brings this child for holy baptism? **I/we do.**

How is this child named? (Name is spoken)

ADMONITION:

Since you as parents and sponsors have brought (Name) to be baptized, you are responsible for his/her upbringing in the Lutheran Church. Remember him/her in your prayers. Bring him/her to the services in God's House and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. Remind him/her of her baptism, set him/her a good example, and provide for his/her instruction in the faith that he/she may join you and all believers around the Lord's Table to feast on Jesus' Body and Blood. Do you intend to joyfully do this? **Yes, I/we do.**

MARKING OF THE CROSS:

(Name), receive the sign of the holy cross †, upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Let us ask the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ on (Name) and pray together the prayer He has taught us:

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.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF THE FAITH:

I ask you now to publicly speak your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Yes, I do renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

BAPTISM:

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father † and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit †. Amen. May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you the new birth by water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His Spirit, so that you receive eternal life. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE:

Receive this burning light. Live always by the Light of Christ and be ever watchful for His coming that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end.

Let your light so shine before others, that they see your good works and glorify Your Father Who is in Heaven.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we join with (Name's) parents in thanking you for giving them this child and for adopting him/her as Your own child in holy baptism. Strengthen him/her faith by Your Holy Spirit, so that his/her sinful self may die each day and he/she may rise to new life with Christ forever. As You have written his/her name in the book of life and have made him/her a member of the body of Your Son, guide him/her, so that, with all Your saints, he/she may one day abide in Your Heavenly Home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF BAPTIZED:

Through Baptism, God has added this new brother/sister a member of the Priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and show forth His creative and redeeming Word to all the world:

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same Heavenly Father, and workers with us in His Kingdom.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

SPOKEN MORNING PRAISE SCRIPTURE RESPONSES:

Open up my lips O LORD!

And my mouth will sing praises to Your Name!

Come quickly to Help me, O Lord

And be speedy to keep me away from harm.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was then, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give glory to our God, our Light and our Life!

O Come, let us worship Him!

PSALMODY

“Come Let Us Worship & Bow Down” [Dave Doherty]

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

For He is our God

And we are the people of his pasture

And the sheep of his hand

Just the sheep of his hand

For He is our God

And we are the people of his pasture

And the sheep of his hand

Just the sheep of his hand.

Writer(s): David J. Doherty

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Loving God, Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life, Who gives hope and joy to those who struggle with doubt. Give to us all who do not see Him, renewed faith, life and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The First Lesson: *Acts of the Apostles 4: 32-35*

Now 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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *1 John 1: 1—2:2*

We 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— this 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— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This 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. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL SONG:

“Seek Ye First”

**Seek ye first the King-dom of God, and His right-eous-ness,
And all these things shall be add-ed un-to you;
Allelu, Alle-luia.**

The Holy Gospel: *St. John 20: 19-31*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

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. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
 2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
 4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when
 found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - jice And cry "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found.
 and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-71, alt.
 Tune: Mary Haugen, b. 1950; setting: Randall Sonzmeier, b. 1948
 Text: Public domain
 Music: © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

SHANTI
 C M

Heb. 12:2; John 20:29

MESSAGE

CONTEMPORARY EASTER SEASON SONG:

King of Kings

Based on the recording by Hillsong Worship

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Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood and Jason Ingram

♩=68

VERSE 1 & 2

D/F#

G



1. In the dark - ness — we were wait - ing, with - out hope, -
(2.) the king - dom com - ing and to re -



— with-out light, — till from Heav - en You — came run - ning. There was mer -
- con - cile — the lost, — to re - deem — the whole — cre - a - tion You did not —

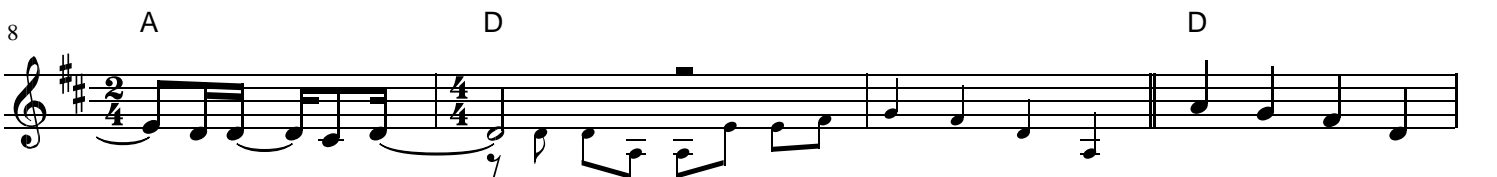


- cy in — Your eyes. — To ful - fil — the law — and pro - phets, to a vir -
— des - pise — the cross. — For — e - ven in — Your suf - fring, You saw to —



- gin came — the Word — from a throne — of end - less glo - ry to a cra -
— the oth - er side. — Know-ing this — was our — sal - va - tion, Je - sus, for —

CHORUS



- dle in — the dirt. — Praise the Fa - ther,
— our sake - You died. —

12 G Bm Asus A D

praise the Son, praise the Spir - it, three in one. God of Glo - ry,

16 G Bm G A D

maj - es - ty, praise for - ev - er to the King of kings.

20 1. 2. VERSE 3 Bm G

2. To re-veal 3. And the morn - ing that _ You rose _ all of heav-

23 A D Bm G

- en held - its breath - till that stone - was moved - for good, - for the Lamb -

25 A D Bm G

- had con - quered death. - And the dead - rose from - their tombs, - and the an -

27 A D Bm G

- gels stood - in awe, - for the souls - of all - who'd come - to the Fa -

VERSE 4

29 A D D/F# G

- ther are - re - stored. - 4. And the Church - of Christ - was born, - then the Spir-

31 A D D/F# G

- it lit — the flame. — Now this Gos - pel truth - of old — shall - not kneel,

33 A D D/F# G

— shall - not faint. — By His blood — and in — His Name, — in His free-

35 A D D/F# G A

- dom I — am free, — for the love — of Je - sus Christ — who has res - ur - rect - ed me. .

CHORUS

38 D D G

— Praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son,

42 Bm Asus A D G

praise the Spir - it, three in one. God of Glo - ry, maj - es - ty,

46 Bm G A D D/F# G

praise for - ev - er to the King of kings. Praise for - ev - er to the

49 A D

King of kings.

THE PRAYERS

The Lord calls us to draw close and examine the wounded hands and feet of the Risen One and to know the depth of his love for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of God in confidence as we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord our Father, as Jesus entered the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, so enter our hearts and move us to faith in Jesus as the Risen One. Convince us of the reality and significance of the resurrection, and free us from all manner of fears and phobias. Give us courage in the face of death, knowing that this is the gateway to new resurrected life for those who trust in Christ.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Be with your church throughout the world so that its preaching and works of love may continue to testify to our Lord's resurrection. Wherever your church is faithless and lacking in courage to do the work that Jesus has given, visit it and build it up with your Spirit. Be with all our pastors so that they may listen well and then speak with Christ's authority.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Bring peace to all parts of the earth. Wherever nations are at war and people are divided, visit and bring true reconciliation. Especially protect all Christian people in our nation, and help them to influence by our witness for the good of all.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Wherever homes are disrupted by anger and bitterness, and wherever relationships are distorted and dulled, visit and bring peace and harmony. Wherever young people are gathered in your name, visit and guide them with your holy word and wisdom.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Visit and comfort the sick and suffering too, dear Lord. Heal and strengthen weak bodies, calm and correct confused minds. We pray for those we know with particular needs including *(insert names)*. Support them all with your great love and mercy, and be with those others known to us and whom we now name in our hearts...

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Heavenly Father, we present these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is risen from the dead, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

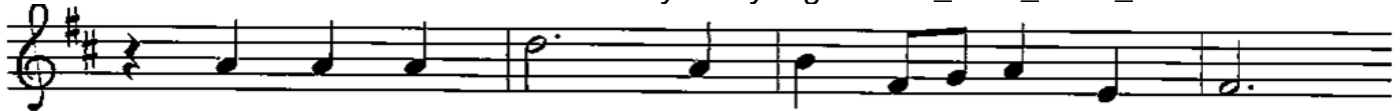
BLESSING & BENEDICTION:

Let us praise our Lord: **Praise God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "The Risen Christ!"

hymnary.org/text/the_risen_christ_ELW390



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
 Music: Walter Grotz, 1877-1949
 © 1993 Nigel Weaver
 © Oxford University Press

WOODLANDS
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MORNING PRAYER

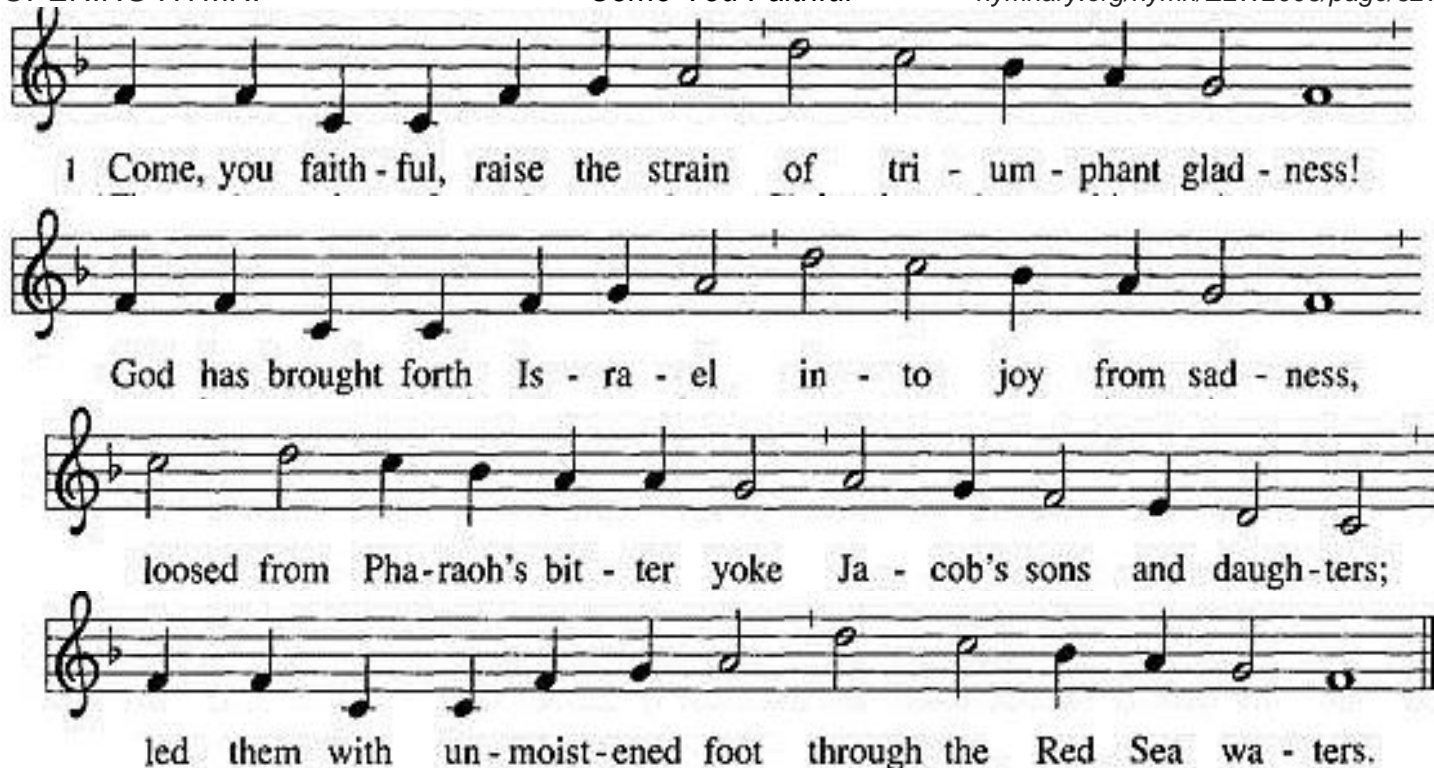
[LSB adapted]

April 24, 2022 – 11 AM worship

OPENING HYMN:

“Come You Faithful”

hymnary.org/hymn/ELW2006/page/627



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.

4 For today among his own Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore --passes human knowing.
Neither could the gates of death nor the tomb's dark portal
nor the watchers nor the seal hold him as a mortal.

5 "Alleluia!" Now we cry to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought his Israel into joy from sadness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: Johann Horn, 1490–1547

GAUDEAMUS PARITER
76 76 D

MORNING PRAYER SCRIPTURE RESPONSES:

O Lord, open my lips!

And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son + and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give glory to God our light and our life.

Oh come, let us worship Him.

PSALM



1 Sing out, sing out, all voic - es, shout to the Rock Who saves!



With thanks, bow down be- fore Him, Come near and praise the Lord! →



For He, our King has blest us; from mount-ain top and hill-side,



the heights and depths He fash -- ioned, and we be - long to Him.

2 Bow down, in faith, before Him, for He has made us all!
As sheep of the Great Shepherd, He feeds us as we go.
All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
And praise to God, the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!

(Hymn version of Psalm 96; Tune: "The Day of Resurrection!" LANCASHIRE tune)

PSALM 133 & Versicle 1 Peter 2:2 [EtRV]

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Like newborn babies hungry for milk, you should want the pure teaching that feeds your spirit. With it you can grow up and be saved.

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

Like newborn babies hungry for milk, you should want the pure teaching that feeds your spirit. With it you can grow up and be saved.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

Like newborn babies hungry for milk, you should want the pure teaching that feeds your spirit. With it you can grow up and be saved.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Loving God, Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life, Who gives hope and joy to those who struggle with doubt. Give to us all who do not see Him, renewed faith, life and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20*

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: *St. John's Revelation 1: 4-18*

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance...saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION"

Divine Service Setting 4



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: St. John 20: 19-31

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

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. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

EASTER GOSPEL RESPONSORY:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God. He gives us the victory in Jesus Christ!



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
 2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
 4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In

gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when
 found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You

none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found.
 and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.

Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; setting: Randall Sensmeier, b. 1948

Text: Public domain

Music: © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

SHANTI
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Heb. 12:2; John 20:29

MESSAGE

EASTER SEASON SONG OF MOSES *Exodus 15*

1. I will sing the Lord's high triumph,
ruling earth and sky and sea;
God, my strength, my song, my glory,
my salvation now is he.
Through the waters, through the waters,
God has brought us liberty! God has brought us liberty!
2. Who is like the God of Israel, faithful, holy, throned above?
Stretching out the arm of anger, yet he guides us by his love.
To our homeland, to our homeland,
God will see us safely move; God will see us safely move.
4. Praise our God, who in the thunder led a nation through the sea;
praise the One whose blood released us from our deeper slavery.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Christ is risen: we are free; Christ is risen: we are free!

THE PRAYERS

The Lord calls us to draw close and examine the wounded hands and feet of the Risen One and to know the depth of his love for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of God in confidence as we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord our Father, as Jesus entered the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, so enter our hearts and move us to faith in Jesus as the Risen One. Convince us of the reality and significance of the resurrection, and free us from all manner of fears and phobias. Give us courage in the face of death, knowing that this is the gateway to new resurrected life for those who trust in Christ.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Be with your church throughout the world so that its preaching and works of love may continue to testify to our Lord's resurrection. Wherever your church is faithless and lacking in courage to do the work that Jesus has given, visit it and build it up with your Spirit. Be with all our pastors so that they may listen well and then speak with Christ's authority.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Bring peace to all parts of the earth. Wherever nations are at war and people are divided, visit and bring true reconciliation. Especially protect all Christian people in our nation, and help them to influence by our witness for the good of all.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Wherever homes are disrupted by anger and bitterness, and wherever relationships are distorted and dulled, visit and bring peace and harmony. Wherever young people are gathered in your name, visit and guide them with your holy word and wisdom.

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Visit and comfort the sick and suffering too, dear Lord. Heal and strengthen weak bodies, calm and correct confused minds. We pray for those we know with particular needs including *(insert names)*. Support them all with your great love and mercy, and be with those others known to us and whom we now name in our hearts...

*Lord, in your risen mercy... **hear us and bless us, Alleluia.***

Heavenly Father, we present these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is risen from the dead, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us so to pray:

"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come...."

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING GREETING & BLESSING:

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all.

Amen!

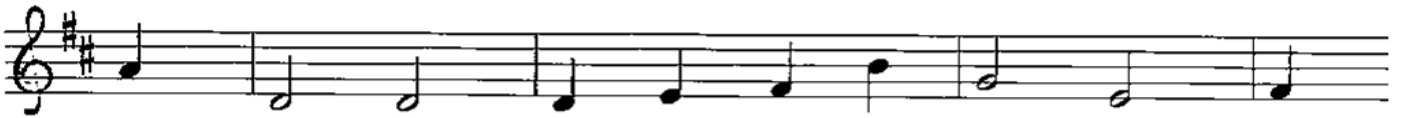
CLOSING HYMN:

"The Risen Christ!"

hymnary.org/text/the_risen_christ_ELW390



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
 Music: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949
 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver
 Music © Oxford University Press

WOODLANDS
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REV. TODD HOEFFS
EASTER 2 (series C)
Scripture: St. John 20: 19-30
April 24, 2022

Branding loyalty used to be important. That concept is nearly gone now. Other than trusting Apple iPhones and certain brands of laptop computers. I know a few here might still have allegiance to CHEVY cars!!! For at least the last 15 years if you want to make a purchase you google it and research the reviews. [We look at Niagara region Restaurant reviews.] And not just any reviews. Customer reviews. The good, the bad and all in between. Pages and pages can be written in the internet world on what people think of certain products. I know I read many, many reviews and test drove 10 different cars before I settled on a Hyundai. We don't want to buy the wrong product. [Esp. true in the last 2 years with pandemic and supply chain problems] We want product certainty. Quick shipment. Cheap pricing. No more just brands, but brand reviews from product testing by regular people. There's little room for doubt in the retail market. Doubt has centre stage in our Gospel account from John.

Thomas wants certainty. UNLESS I place my own hands into Jesus' scars I WILL NOT BELIEVE IT! This kind of doubt is really an inner struggle with believing & trusting that God will come through when we really need Him. This kind of doubt is as much a part of faith as Christ Himself. But there comes the time when you walk by faith, trust Your God, move on in hope based on what you have lived through before and walk the journey. Commit to a product. Actively trust. Faith has feet and moves forward. There comes a time when we LIVE the resurrection. LIVE as those CHRIST LIVES IN US! That His presence in is makes a difference. That's not always easy. There are days when we prefer to just stay in bed, pull the covers over our head, and close out the world. Some days it seems easier and safer to lock the doors of our house and avoid the circumstances and people of our lives. Sometimes we just want to run away, hide, and not deal with the reality of our lives. Every time, however, we shut the doors of our life, our mind, or our heart we imprison ourselves. For every person, event, or idea we lock out, regardless of the reason, we lock ourselves in. That's what's going on with the disciples in the Gospel. It's Easter evening, the first day of the week, Sunday evening of the resurrection day, after seeing the Jesus' empty tomb, when Mary Magdalene announced, "I have seen the Lord." Last Sunday, John and Peter ran & looked into the tomb. Calling the women's word an IDLE TALE. Realizing the Lord is NOT there, where is He? Can't see Him. So they run and hide back in their home. They are still gathered in the house, the doors are locked with fear. Nothing much has changed. They experience new life, but only see death. The house has become their tomb. Bound up in fear. Separating themselves and their lives from the reality of Jesus' resurrection. They don't trust remember nor trust what Jesus warned them about. They can't accept the women's witness of resurrection. Jesus said He'll die and rise but offered no written guarantee. Just His Word. Their eyes are closed to the reality that life is now different. They've locked out the women's and Mary Magdalene's words of faith, hope, and joy. The locked doors have become the great stone sealing their tomb. Locked doors aren't just a physical recollection of building details. John's also recording the inner life condition of his fellow brothers. Easter hasn't warmed their hearts to trust in Him Whom they now can't see. They're also afraid of the Jews. The religious leaders of their own faith heritage forced Pontius Pilate to kill Jesus on a cross. They know Jesus has followers and supporters. Maybe they'll be next? The Christian church is living in fear. Numbers of Christians seem to be dwindling and if we get smaller, we'll no longer be strong... thereby forgetting in the all-powerful God Who raises the dead and orchestrates every movement in the Universe. Who still draws all people to the crucified and risen Lord. But if we lock ourselves up in our own little worlds, we will miss many opportunities. We've closed off places in our lives. Fear. Maybe its questions, disbelief, or the conditions we place on our faith. We don't have a warranty manual on our faith. We can't google God on the internet and get peoples' reviews on instant relief.

Maybe we want guarantees instead of Spirit led certainty. We desire more answers less hope. Perhaps it's sorrow and loss. Maybe the wounds are so deep it does not seem worth the risk to step outside. For others it may be anger and resentment. Some seem unable or unwilling to open up to new ideas, possibilities, and change. Jesus is always entering the locked places of our lives. He comes bringing Easter LIFE. Unexpected, uninvited, and sometimes even unwanted He steps into our closed lives, closed hearts, closed minds. Jesus shares His "peace" as the remedy for fear. On the cross He overcame the world. So now His real peace scatters the shadows of hurt and pain in the locked up house. He displays his wounds, now healed and glorified. This bridges the gaps between a dead Jesus hanging on a cross to the new resurrected Lord standing before them. He's different, but it's still him. HE LIVES. They are all safe now. THEY HAVE SEEN THE LORD". By His wounds we are healed, by His wounds peace is secure! No longer meant to live in fear, the disciples represent the newly forming church. Imperfect, struggling, filled with worry, doubts and pain. The stress takes our breath away at times. What better remedy than the Lord's breath upon His followers. Just as He breathed into Adam giving him life. Jesus is making the disciples into HOLY APOSTLES, which means SENT ONES. God sends Jesus, Jesus sends them. Faith in Action. Mercy in ACTION. Now that fear is out of the way, the work of ministry will emerge. How awesome! They rejoice, they trust, they believe, they are at peace. But Thomas missed out. Words from his own brothers isn't enough They got to see, he needs to see. Does Jesus refuse? Is Thomas reprimanded for his wavering? Not a bit! Christians often come down hard on people who struggle with faith....why? Jesus doesn't. When He returns, Gospel writer John uses an important specific word in his Greek describing to us that even though Jesus comes HE is there because HE HAS BEEN CONTINUALLY COMING. Jesus is ON GOING. HE NEVER LEFT! How encouraging that is for us who worry that God might not be present. He's ever MORE there when we feel He isn't. Without a second thought, Jesus lets Thomas poke the scars in His hands and side. Our Bibles always have Jesus say "do not doubt but believe" – but it's literally "stop acting like you don't believe and keep on believing!" Who hasn't been told that by God a time or 2 in the fearful places of our hearts?! He won't let Mary cling to Him but allows Thomas a reassuring touch. Both need different things from God. Sometimes your prayer may be answered quickly, Maybe another time He lets you endure a while before there is relief. Some get dreams; Some get a feeling. Some might never sense anything. It just means God loves us all as unique creatures in His Son and treats us according to our own uniqueness. And yet together, as one We will all get to touch and taste Jesus with HIS WORD & MEAL Which is a blessed give from His wounds of peace. Our risen Lord gives great peace and certainty. Thomas reacts to all this with saying MY LORD & MY GOD. A wonderful phrase based in faith which has also experienced this Easter life 1st hand. MY LORD AND MY GOD is also what my pastor Years ago Taught us to silently pray upon receiving the Body & Blood of Christ in Holy Communion....where He comes to us as Lord & God!] THIS ALSO completes the circle of faith in bringing all nations into the Kingdom of God. As the Roman Centurion witnesses Jesus as God's Son once Blood & Waters washed over His uniform, so Jesus' disciple Thomas completes this wonder confessing WHO Jesus is – our LORD & GOD! Life is our new reality. Christ living in our life is the heart and soul of who we are & how we witness. Even though tornados will still form, the hungry will still need to be fed, innocent people still get killed with guns, believers are persecuted and daily living will have some form of stress. The life and peace of Jesus' resurrection help us to meet and live through those circumstances. We have His peace. His peace eases the tension. Diffuses our anger and sends us out— free to unlock the doors of our lives and step outside into his life. Now we are the SENT ONES just as the Father sent the Son. God will orchestrate our steps. Jesus will be the content of our action and verbiage. Fear need not creep in. Baptized into Christ we have His Spirit breathed over us taking the very Lord and God with us into the world. We are the new believing church recognized by embodying Jesus to the world.

We employ mercy, Gospel and forgiveness.

So also, if any sins are not forgiven, they are "retained" within the community, only for those WHO truly do not see themselves as sinners and who do not want forgiveness. That might be hard to imagine but sometimes hearts can harden. We can only trust the Spirit's working to turn all wayward hearts back to the Lord. We continuously step out the door in faith.

Jesus is ENOUGH.

Blessed are we. We haven't seen. We haven't touched. Yet because they saw & touched we believe. And we can touch and see Jesus in the Bread and Wine.

That's how the women and Mary and Thomas and John and Peter and the rest of the followers would see and touch Jesus into the future.

SO that ALL may believe and have life in His name.

That we have life in His name.

That all who look for reviews and guarantees and certainty see Christ,
and say MY LORD & MY GOD.

Amen.

Easter Word Search

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| | V | R | Z | Y | N | B | O | Y | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | R | Y | O | R | E | E | S | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | K | I | C | S | Y | D | S | G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | P | N | H | N | S | Q | E | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB

MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION
 ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB