

First St. John Lutheran Church

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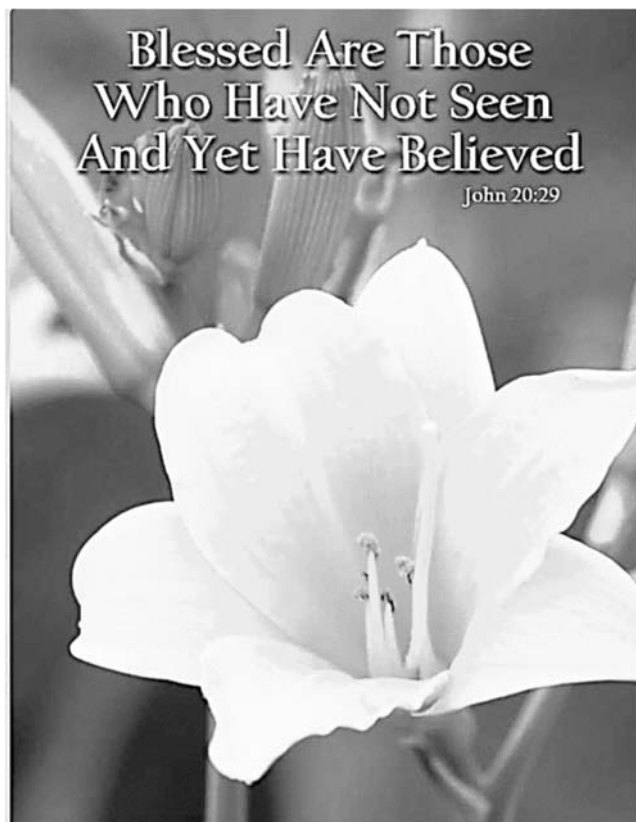
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

April 19, 2020 - 10:15 am

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Second Sunday of Easter

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex.

We offer a traditional service and a celebration service, a joint effort between members of both services with special music and a message. Our Sunday schedule is:

7:45 am	Traditional Service
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Celebration Service

A.W.E. Service: We also offer a contemporary worship service on the second Wednesday of the month beginning with a light supper at 5:30 pm. ***

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 6th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: The 7th grade class meets at 9:00 am on Sundays in the catechism room next to the ladies restroom on the second floor of the Educational Building. Eighth grade class meets every other Sunday at 11:30 am in the lounge for a light lunch and class.

Nursery: Our nursery is in the church basement. The nursery is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table & a semi-private nursing area also are available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement. In the hallway, the ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, there is a sign up book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you may call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – CELEBRATION SERVICE

Praise Prelude
Prelude

Ringing of the Bell (please stand)

Opening Song "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!" No. 380

Thanksgiving For Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism as the Thanksgiving begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The water is poured into the baptismal font.

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.

Baptismal Hymn – Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises sing. Love drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, and justice, love, and praise.

Greeting and Prayer

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he quotes Psalm 16:8-11 to show that Jesus is the Messiah: Though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the people:

²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know--²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

²⁵For David says concerning him,
 'I saw the Lord always before me,
 for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
 moreover my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
 or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
 you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'
²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David
 that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.
³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to
 him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this,
 David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
 'He was not abandoned to Hades,
 nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
 I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
²**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
 upon those who are noble among the people.**
³But those who run after other gods
 shall have their troubles multiplied.
⁴**Their libations of blood I will not offer,
 nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**
⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
 it is you who uphold my lot.
⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
 indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**
⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
 my heart teaches me night after night.
⁸**I have set the LORD always before me;
 because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.**
⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
 my body also shall rest in hope.
¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
 nor let your holy one see the pit.**
¹¹You will show me the path of life;
 in your presence there is fullness of joy,
 and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians who were suffering for their faith. It begins by praising God for the resurrection of Jesus, which produces hope, both then and now.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse (please stand)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 20.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

One week after Easter, Christ still comes to those who believe in him; he seeks any who may have missed his offer of peace and life through his resurrection.

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."

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.

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Message Hymn

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

Pastor Rayl

No. 656

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

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.

(Please be seated)

The Offering *"Come to the Tomb and Live Forevermore"*

Clatterbuck / arr. Schrader

"Sanctuary" (please stand)

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.*

Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

Blessing and Dismissal

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and empower you for discipleship. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen, just as he promised. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Closing Song *"The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"*
Postlude

No. 366

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

ACOLYTE

Jenna Pawlaczyk

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| dish soap | shampoo, child | toothbrush, child |
| paper towels | laundry soap | tampons |
| toilet paper | fabric softener sheets | sanitary pads |
| tissues | body lotion | band aids |
| deodorant | body soap | toothpaste, adult |
| shampoo, adult | toothbrush, adult | toothpaste, child |
| disposable razors | | |

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



Whose Resurrection Is It?

It is not just Jesus who gets his life back on Easter. On Easter evening, the frightened, grief-stricken, locked away disciples get Jesus back, and through his presence and his words to them, they get their own lives back as well. "Peace be with you," he says.

Thomas misses all this. The others say to him, "We have seen the Lord." Yet Thomas can only visualize something else: all those puncture wounds.

The horrible has a way of pushing everything else out of our consciousness. When we are going through something dreadful, it is nearly always the only thing we can think about. It is all we can picture.

Thomas knows what happened to Jesus on Good Friday. It is easy to imagine that when Thomas closes his eyes, he sees Jesus as he last saw him. Thomas sees the cross, the nails, the body writhing there for hours and then horribly still. Thomas sees this, knows it, believes it in his bones. Whether he wants to believe something else is beside the point. He knows what he saw.

Yet, in spite of what Thomas has seen and regardless of what Thomas believes, Jesus is alive. He is alive, which means he is able to get to Thomas--and to us--no matter what horrors of the past rise up behind our eyelids. Just as Jesus found a way through those locked doors on Easter evening, so one week later, he finds a way to pry open the grip that Good Friday has on his friend, Thomas.

What's more, when Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe," he is promising that Thomas is not the last to get his life back as a result of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is still alive, and still finding ways to welcome his own into a future that our past had given us no reason to expect.