

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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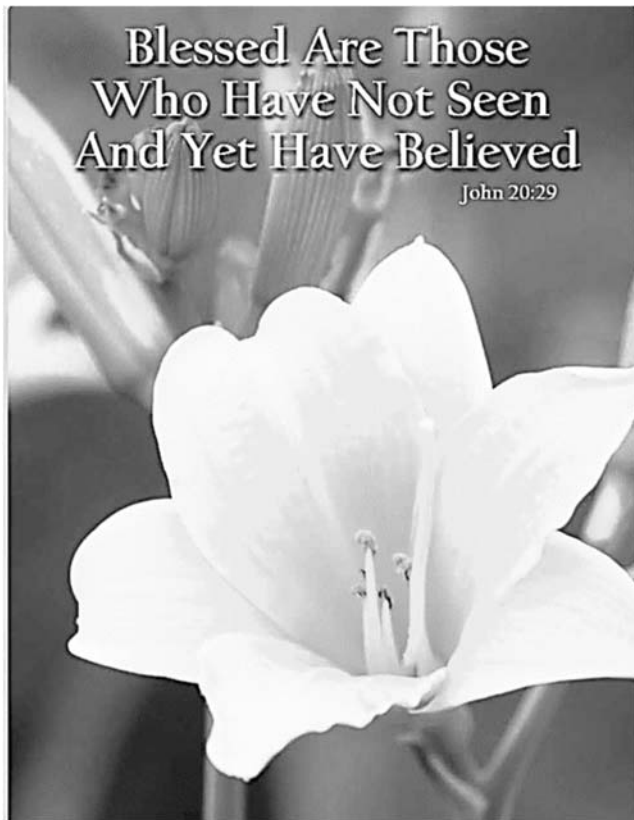
[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

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 - 7:45 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 – TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn "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:

<sup>22</sup>"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--<sup>23</sup>this 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. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

<sup>25</sup>For 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;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
 moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
 or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
 you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'  
<sup>29</sup>'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.  
<sup>30</sup>Since 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. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this,  
 David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
 'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
 nor did his flesh experience corruption.'  
<sup>32</sup>This 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."  
<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,  
 upon those who are noble among the people.**  
<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
 shall have their troubles multiplied.  
<sup>4</sup>**Their libations of blood I will not offer,  
 nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**  
<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
 it is you who uphold my lot.  
<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
 indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**  
<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
 my heart teaches me night after night.  
<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD always before me;  
 because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.**  
<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
 my body also shall rest in hope.  
<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
 nor let your holy one see the pit.**  
<sup>11</sup>You 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.**

*(Please stand)*

**Alleluia Verse**



**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."

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

<sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>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."

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

### **Gospel Response (Spoken)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

Sermon Hymn

*"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"*

Pastor Rayl

No. 656

### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

P: Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

The Offering

*(Please stand)*

### **Offering Response** – (Sung by the congregation)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Remembering, therefore, Christ's salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

P: Hear us as we pray:

## 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.

## Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

**C: We come with open hearts and lives. Alleluia!**

*(Please be seated)*

## The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

*(When coming to receive Communion, please fill out a Communion registration card located in the pew rack and give it to the usher.)*

**Communion Hymns-** During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be sung by the congregation:

*"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"* No. 494

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayer After Communion

P: Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word and the powerful presence of your Son. Through the meal you have assured us of your eternal love. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all our community, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

**C: 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 Hymn    *“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done”*    No. 366  
Postlude

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar

**READER**

Bob Haar

**ACOLYTES**

Brody & Vince Barton

*April 19, 2020*

***SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER***

**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.