

Acts 4:32-35

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the LORD Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Jesus Christ has Risen, He has Risen Indeed! Alleluia! This past Sunday was a glorious day of singing and celebrating, of happiness and rejoicing. We heard that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb with tears in her eyes, not even recognizing Jesus, and the tomb was empty. This week we will hear that the disciples found themselves locked in the room fearful for their life. They wondered what was to come next. I wonder if they asked, "Now what?" What shall we do now without our Lord, in this grief, in these tears, in the news and the buzz that is going on?

We ask as well, what are we to do in the meantime? We hear in the book of Acts what the apostles and all believers moved to action. They testified to the resurrection, they enveloped in God's grace that no one was needy, no one was in want, everyone contributed and it was distributed. Anyone in need provided for, because of his or her belief in the Resurrection and God's grace surrounded everyone. Imagine.

Now what for First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hinckley, MN? God's church is spreading this same Good News. We are continuing to print and send out bulletins weekly if you would like one, (Please let the office know), you can get the bulletin emailed from our Directory, (please let us know your email). You may watch on Facebook or YouTube, you may listen on the radio in your car, and you may join us for in gathering (Worship with masks and social distancing if you are feeling safe doing so).

We are safely and with caution starting up some programs. Confirmation and Faith in Action continue, the Men's Bible study on Thursday morning, and on April 13, Women's Bible Study will begin. Social distancing, hand washing, and masks will be required. Please stay home if you are feeling ill.

As we continue to take care of our neighbor by standing with them in all their needs, I give you thanks for your support and encouragement. As we continue in "God's power", we do so in joy and hope.

In Gratitude,

Pastor Brenda Wicklund



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

April 11, 2021, Second Sunday of Easter

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

"We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ's love with each other and our community"

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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.

Prelude

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion, so please make sure you have a Communion packet when you arrive. Please join us as we sing under our masks. Thank you for practicing social distancing and masking.

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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

L: 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.

Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

Red Worship Book 385

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away; let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: 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.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

L: 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. **C: Amen.**

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

First Reading: 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.

Psalm 133

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 forevermore.

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

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 have 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 Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹When 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." 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 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.

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children's Sermon

Sermon: Peace Amidst Fear: Second Sunday After Easter John 20:19-31 Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Grace mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Risen Savior, Jesus the living Lord, Amen.

The definition of peace can be the following: freedom from disturbance, quiet and tranquility · calm · calmness · restfulness · peace and quiet. A state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended. A ceremonial handshake or kiss exchanged during a service in some Churches symbolizing Christian love.

A quiet peaceful time where a person can calm down and be out of the sorrow and turmoil that one is going through. When we are fearful of which there are many things to be afraid of peace is hard to come at times. The risen Christ says repeatedly to his disciples, peace.

The disciples in our reading from John today locked up in fear of the religious leaders that had crucified Jesus Christ, their Lord, just that morning they found out the body of Jesus had taken, or was gone, and Mary Magdalene said she had seen the Lord. They were confused, fearful, mourning the loss of their teacher, and certainly far from peaceful.

In the locked doors, Jesus comes among them. The first words he says is "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and sides. The disciples rejoiced! Jesus said again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I send you." He breathed *into* them the Holy Spirit. If you forgive, the sins of any they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any they are retained (John 20:19-23). Jesus breathed into them the Holy Spirit and tells them that I am sending you to spread this peace and forgiveness. You are to forgive the sins of others and let them go or they will be hanging around forever.

Jesus showed the disciples his hands and sides. Yet Thomas was not there. He did not get to see the hands and sides of Jesus. He replies that he needs to see it with his own eyes, just as they had. Jesus arrived again about a week later, through shut doors, through still frightened disciples, through fear Jesus comes and says, once again, "Peace be with you." Jesus knew what Thomas needed even before he said a word; He offers him his hands and side. He says, "Do not doubt, but believe." Thomas does, and does not even touch him, and replies, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen you have come to believe. (John 20: 26-29)."

Fear turning to peace, forgiveness from Jesus, sadness turning to joy. Joy and peace promised from Jesus Christ. Rejoicing does not replace the grief, yet the peace of Jesus Christ does. The hope in the Resurrection

does. Joy is possible after lockdowns and loss, after the fear of what is to come, after news and worries of what the day may bring, joy is promised as well as peace is promised. Where are your moments of joy? Where have you been rejoicing? Is it a small get-together with your family? A time when you were able to worship in person again? Is it a walk on a gorgeous spring day? Where is your joy in light of the Resurrection of our Lord? What is bringing you joy and peace?

Jesus speaks to troubled hearts with peace. In John 14:27 Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I leave with you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." Jesus said these words before his death and he tells the disciples and all of us what we need to hear when we need to hear it, "Peace be with you." Jesus speaks these words even as Peter will deny and Judas will betray, he assures everyone and all of us not to be troubled, things will work out and I will never leave or forsake you.

Do not be unbelieving, but believing Jesus says. Now he is sending you. Now you will proclaim. Now you will forgive and be forgiven. Now you will have peace. Receive the Holy Spirit that breathed into you. Jesus does not send anyone into the world for action without the breathe of Spirit to walk with you and peace.

Jesus says that this is all happening, all the events and all of his words before his death and after, so that you might come to believe. Have life in his name. Believe in the Messiah, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).

Jesus calls us to walk in his peace. This means the peace we receive in the face of fear goes away with the help of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, in the midst of doubt and fear, peace abides. As Jesus sends us out into life with others, we do not do this alone. We forgive as he has forgiven us. We will land on the side of peace and joy. Peace, right in the middle of all the chaos and fear. Forgiveness for each and everything, and the strength to forgive others. Joy, rejoicing with the risen Christ. Joy in the Resurrection! Jesus has risen, he has risen indeed. Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn

"Lift High The Cross"

Red Worship Book 660

Refrain- Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1** Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2** All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3** O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4** So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: 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.)

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

C: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. 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.

L: 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.

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

C:Amen.

Words of Institution

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

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Hymn "Come and Fill Our Hearts" (sing 3 times)

Red Worship Book 528

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia

Prayer after Communion

L: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory”

Red Worship Book 376

1 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 grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain- Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

2 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**

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught 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**

Dismissal

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...



The Noisy offering this month is for Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.

Next Week’s Readings and Psalm

First Reading

[Acts 3:12-19](#)

Second Reading

[1 John 3:1-7](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 4](#)

Gospel

[Luke 24:36b-48](#)

One change as we are back in person is that we will not be sending out bulletins in the mail, unless you would like one sent. It is your choice of online through the church directory, web page, in the mail, or pick it up on Sunday is your choice. Please let us know what your desire is. We are looking to save paper and printing for those who can, yet we will need your assistance to get the “Good News” and the news to you as is best for you 😊

I would like to get my bulletin by Church directory. My email is _____

I would like to receive this through the US Postal Service _____

I will receive my bulletin on Sunday Morning at Worship _____

I will check out the church Website to receive the bulletin _____

I have a question about this change _____

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