

April 23, 2023  
Third Sunday of Easter



BLESSED ARE THOSE  
WHO HAVE NOT  
SEEN YET

*Believe*



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #210

*"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** ♪ Amen.

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

### Confession of Our Sins

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*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

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**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C** ♪ ***Who made heaven and earth.***

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C** ♪ ***And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.***

**P** O Almighty God, our Maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### Absolution from Our God

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*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

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**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** ♪ Amen.

## The Introit

1 Pet. 2:2-3; Ps. 105:1-5, 8

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- C** **Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!**
- P** Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!
- C** **Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**
- P** Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!
- C** **Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.**
- P** He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

## The Gloria Patri

TLH 39:5

*Latin for "Glory be to the Father."*

- C** ♪ **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before  
Him! Let the Amen Sound from His people again;  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.**

## Collect Prayer of the Day

*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

- P** Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ **Amen.**

## Acts 5:29-42

<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy

Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." <sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup> And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup> For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup> So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup> but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup> and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

## **1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more

precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire— may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Confession of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

### **I BELIEVE...**

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn: WS #759**

*"These Are the Facts"*

### **John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**“Seeing is Believing”**

**“Believing is Seeing”**

### **The Offertory**

**☩ ♪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.***

**✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠**

**Hymn: TLH #208:4-8**

*“Ye Sons and Daughters of the King”*

**✠ The General Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer ✠**



## ✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠



**The Preface**    *To the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

- P**     ♪ *The Lord is with His people;  
Now may He be with you.*
- C**     ♪ ***The Lord is with His servants;  
May He be with you, too.***
- P**     ♪ *Now lift your hearts to praise Him.*
- C**     ♪ ***To God we lift them high.  
'Tis right to praise and thank Him  
Who to His world draws nigh.***

**P** Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**The Sanctus**    *To the tune of "Ye Sons and Daughters"*

- C**     ♪ ***Holy are You, the heav'nly King!  
With angel hosts we join to sing,  
"Your majesty fills ev'rything!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***
- Holy are You, our Lord most high!  
Blessed is He who now draws nigh  
In God's own name! With joy we cry:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***
- Holy are You, through endless days!  
Our glad hosannas now we raise  
To greet You with exalted praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## **The Words of Institution**

*Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**The Agnus Dei** *To the tune of "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"*

**C**    ♪ **Lamb of God, You take away  
All the sinful world's transgression;  
Let Your mercy now, we pray,  
And Your peace be our possession.  
Grant us from our sins release;  
Lord, have mercy, grant us peace!**

### **Communion Today is for Members Only Please**

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

### **✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠**

**Thanksgiving**      *To the tune of "I Know that My Redeemer"*

**C**    ♪ **Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!  
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,  
And we have tasted of His word.**



**As His own servants we depart  
With His salvation in our heart.  
His saving power He has made known;  
His love through all the earth is shown.**

**Lord, let us show the world Your light;  
Let us declare Your glory bright,  
Proclaim Your death until You come  
To take Your ransomed servants home.**

**Glory to God, the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!**

### **The Benediction**

*To the tune of "The Church's One..."*

**P** *♫ The good Lord bless and keep you,  
Lift up His smiling face,  
With favor look upon you  
And grant eternal peace.*

**G** *♫ To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
Most gracious One-in-Three,  
The Church sings alleluia!  
Now and eternally. Amen.*

### **Hymn: TLH #313**

*"O Lord, We Praise Thee"*

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**CLC Call News** Mrs. Chris Gerbitz **has accepted the call** to be teacher in the school of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church in Middleton, WI. The **call** from the dual parish of Redemption Lutheran of Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran of Tacoma, WA **has been sent to** Jonah Albrecht, soon to graduate from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary. <> The teaching **call** from Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE **has been sent** to Stephen Krause, soon to graduate from the ILC Education Department. <> Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN and Faith Lutheran in New Ulm, MN **is considering the call** to serve as the third pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

<b><u>April 9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> Offerings:</u></b>	\$ 3,230.30
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,661.54
General Fund Balance	\$19,424.84
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$37,394.59
<b>Total Cash All Funds</b>	<b>\$72,155.27</b>

**Mon John 21:15-19** One of the effects of Christ's resurrection was that the Master now lived who would reinstate His servant. As Peter had three times denied knowing Jesus, now Jesus asks three times if Peter loves Him. Peter is once again given the position of a follower of the Risen Lord.

**Tues 1 Peter 1:3-9** Through the resurrection of Jesus, we have an inheritance in heaven! This brings us comfort and joy in the midst of trials and tribulation, and assures us of a future that we now see only with the eyes of faith: the salvation of our souls.

**Wed Genesis 32:22-31** As Peter's encounter with the Lord (Monday's reading) ended in blessing, so also Jacob's wrestling with the Lord for a blessing brought Him a new name. No longer Jacob (the deceiver) would be his name, but Israel (strive with God), the one who seeks his blessings from God, not from his own strength or cunning.

**Thur Ezekiel 37:9-14** The God who first breathed into the nostrils of Adam the breath of life (Gn2:7) is surely able to raise His people up from dead bodies, yes, even from dry bones. As He promised of old to bring His people into their own land, so Jesus' resurrection promises to raise us and bring us home with Him.

**Fri 1 John 1:1-4** The message of John and all the apostles was a word of condemnation only to those who rejected the idea that God could give life to Jesus or anyone else in the tomb. The word which John and the others proclaimed was "the word of life" which they had witnessed and which held the promise of eternal life in Christ.

**Sat 1 John 1:5-7** We are reminded here that God is light, and there is no darkness in Him. To walk in the light is to walk with God and with those who follow Him. This gift is ours because the darkness of our sin has been cleansed by His dying (shedding His blood) for us.