

## Second Sunday of Easter: April 11, 2021

### Gathering

Prelude: "Dona Nobis Pacem"

Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Christ is risen! Alleluia!<br/>Risen our victorious head!<br/>Sing his praises! Alleluia!<br/>Christ is risen from the dead!<br/>Gratefully our hearts adore him<br/>as his light once more appears;<br/>bowing down in joy before him,<br/>rising up from griefs and tears.</p> <p><i>Refrain</i><br/>Christ is risen! Alleluia!<br/>Risen our victorious head!<br/>Sing his praises! Alleluia!<br/>Christ is risen from the dead!</p> <p>2 Christ is risen! All the sadness<br/>of our Lenten fast is o'er;<br/>through the open gates of gladness<br/>he returns to life once more;<br/>death and hell before him bending<br/>see him rise, the victor now,<br/>angels on his steps attending,<br/>glory round his wounded brow. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3 Christ is risen! All the sorrow<br/>that last evening round him lay<br/>now has found a glorious morrow<br/>in the rising of today.<br/>See the grave its firstfruits giving,<br/>springing up from holy ground;<br/>he was dead, but now is living;<br/>he was lost, but he is found. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never<br/>death or hell shall us enthrall;<br/>be we Christ's, in him forever<br/>we have triumphed over all.<br/>All the doubting and dejection<br/>of our trembling hearts have ceased;<br/>hail the day of resurrection!<br/>Let us rise and keep the feast. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C: His mercy endures forever.**

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**

P: Let us pray. 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.**

## Hymn of Praise: "This is the Feast of Victory"

This is the feast of victory. Alleluia, alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory. Alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory. Alleluia, alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory. Alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory. Alleluia, alleluia.  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

## The Word

### Blessing of the Lector

**P:** Let us pray. Bless, O Lord, your servant Chet as he reads to us the holy word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup> **How good and how pleasant it is,**

**when kindred live together in unity!**

<sup>2</sup> **It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,**

**upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup> **It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.**

**For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.**

## Second Reading: 1 John 1:1—2:2

<sup>1</sup> 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—<sup>2</sup> 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—<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup> 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; <sup>2</sup> and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> 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 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Special Music: "Come Touch"

Handt Hanson

Children's Sermon

Sermon

## Hymn of the Day: “The Risen Christ”

- 1 The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet  
from garden tomb through darkened city street,  
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,  
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
- 2 The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,  
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide  
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;  
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.
- 3 The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand  
the bread for those who fail to understand,  
reveals himself, despite their ling'ring tears,  
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.
- 4 May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand  
with those oppressed in this and every land,  
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,  
restored in Christ to true humanity.

## Blessing and Dedication of AED

P: Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God’s blessing as we dedicate our new automated external defibrillator (AED) device in service to Almighty God, the Author and Sustainer of Life.

A reading from Psalm 23:

- <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;
- <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
- <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

This Psalm proclaims that God is our faithful shepherd. Even though we walk through the darkest valley and death, we fear no evil. Even if we face an emergency situation that requires medical attention and the use of this AED, then we will trust that God, the Good Shepherd, will watch over us and lead us through that valley.

The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen. You stretched out the heavens like a tent; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and building up. You blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, mother of our Lord; Peter, James, John, and all the apostles; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

We give you thanks, O God, as we dedicate this AED to your service. By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and brought the dead back to life. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray that in the event of an emergency, this device may be an effective tool in your will and purposes by witnessing to your enduring love for us and presence with us.

Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things and to trust that though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*After the last petition:*

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## The Meal

Thrive! Renewed

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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: 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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## The Lord's Prayer

**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:** The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be raised from the dead.  
The Body of Christ, broken for you.  
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.*

## Communion Hymn: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 That Easter day with joy was bright;<br>the sun shone out with fairer light<br>when, to their longing eyes restored,<br>th'apostles saw their risen Lord! | 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all<br>in this our Easter festival,<br>for you will be our strength and shield<br>from ev'ry weapon death can wield. |
| 2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,<br>with constant love our hearts possess;<br>to you our lips will ever raise<br>the tribute of our grateful praise.          | 4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give<br>to you, once dead, but now alive!<br>To God the Father equal praise,<br>and God the Spirit, now we raise!     |

## Table Blessing

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C:** Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn: "Thine Is the Glory"

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*

## Easter Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Go in the peace of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

---

### Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Donald Harris, Assisting Minister

Chet Laine, Reader

### Copyright Notices

“This Is the Feast”: Text by John W. Arthur © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music by Michael Hassell © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

“Come Touch”: Text & music by Handt Hanson © 1991 Changing Church Forum, Inc.

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”: Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726103 and CCLI Licenses #21045423 and #21045416. All rights reserved.

*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

*To give your offering through our website, please visit [stpaulreading.org/online-giving/](http://stpaulreading.org/online-giving/)*

## Our Life Together

**For emergency pastoral care**, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

**If you have requests for the Prayer Chain**, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Beth** (Elinor Schieman's daughter); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Ann Cathcart** (Laines' daughter-in-law); **Christian**; **Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Colin** (Millers' grandson); **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Lee and Jane Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **George and Sherry** (Shirley Harbaugh's cousins); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Ruth Lohmeier**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin, Carol, Jim, and Jeannie Oerther** (Portmanns' sister and family); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Tom Pack** (Betty Pack's son); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brothers); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends

of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter & son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith** (Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner; Jeanne Wagner; Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nade and Barry Wisecup).

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, April 11: 2 Easter**

10:30 am Worship

### **Tuesday, April 13**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **Thursday, April 15**

7 pm Worship & Music Committee (Zoom)

### **Sunday, April 18: 2 Easter**

10:30 am Worship

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

### **Tuesday, April 20**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **Thursday, April 24**

7 pm Youth Group (Zoom)