

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ

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."²⁰ After 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."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
John 20:19-23

Second Sunday of Easter
April 24, 2022 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM
Liturgy of Holy Communion
Now the Feast and Celebration

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ.

Our worship services this morning are streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.

*We thank **Fred Astmann**, for serving
as our musician this morning while
Mark Dishong enjoys a vacation day.*

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)
Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music (markdishong@gmail.com)
601 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
856-667-0973, Fax: 856-755-1247
office@stmlutheran.org www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org

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INTRODUCTION

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Voluntary in D” - Boyce

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

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

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

to Verses

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

to Verses

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

to Verses

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Now the Feast”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

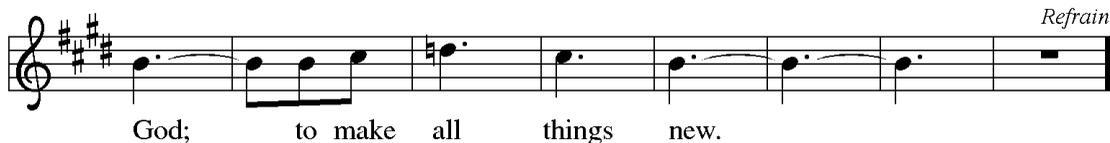
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Lector: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING:

Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

Lector: A reading from Revelation.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. ³¹ 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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON

The assembly is invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

ALL: 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.

THE PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation, responding with “hear our prayer.”

A brief silence.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy, **ALL: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Uphold your children who cry out to you especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Pastor: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

The assembly is seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by

having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

MUSICAL OFFERING “What Wondrous Love” - Hustad

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERATORY “As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed

together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the Presider's part: "The Lord be with you. And al-so with you." The second staff shows the Congregation's part: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Presider's part: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is" and the Congregation's part: "right to give God thanks and praise." The fourth staff continues the Congregation's part: "right to give God thanks and praise." The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise."

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

ALL: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray:

**ALL: C. 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

Pastor: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha-tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus-tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer-cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. **Communion will be distributed continuously, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen". Worshipers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand if able.

TABLE BLESSING

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's Grace

All: Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation:

1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for
 ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, + bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Thine is the Glory”

ELW 376

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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! <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

Refrain

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

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*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune for a Festive Day” - Johnson

Upcoming Commemorations

Mark, Evangelist

Monday, April 25, 2022

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Friday, April 29, 2022

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

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Altar Flowers - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Janet Thompson in honor of her grandson, Cooper on his first communion.

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 22

Please plan to join a hands-on inter generational project to support Lutheran Social Ministries "Cherishing our Elders" program. LSM provides affordable housing, social services and healthcare to more than 1,400 NJ seniors. Many are home-bound and have limited incomes. LSM's ministry helps seniors with food and personal care items and nurtures fellowship with cards or room decorations. Our work session will begin with a light lunch at 12:00 Noon in the social hall. All ages and abilities welcome to join in! Project details to follow; contact Kay McConnell with questions. LSM info: <https://www.lsmnj.org/cherishing-our-elders/>.

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

Since last month, the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has filled news reports and social media. Heartbreaking images of people saying goodbye to loved ones and lining up to leave the country have occupied our media.

People are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. Many of these Ukrainians need shelter and basic necessities as food, water and toiletries.

Lutheran Disaster Response is joining companion churches and partners in response to this crisis. These partners provide immediate support and supplies. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

There are ways to help in support of those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries affected by this crisis. Please pray for healing, peace and hope in their time of need. An offering labeled "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" can be placed in the offering plate in the rear of the Sanctuary or sent to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

IHOC ANNUAL ADOPT A BOX

The Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council is collecting personal care items for local homeless shelters and others in need. These items are requested by shelters:

Soap/Washcloth	Deodorant	Baby Shampoo	Sunscreen
Comb/Brush	Toothbrush/Toothpaste	Feminine Products	Razors
Hand Sanitizer	Socks/Underwear	Shave Cream	Shampoo

Sample/travel size packages are welcomed. Place items in shoe boxes or gallon size Ziploc bags. Boxes should be secured with rubber bands. Please label your box/bag: Man, Woman, Boy, Girl or Baby. Please drop off donations in the narthex by **Sunday, April 24th**. Contact Ruth Morgenroth with questions. Thank you for your support!

BIBLE STUDY

We will finish up our Bible study series talking about a King (April 27) and a Royal Pain (May 4). Please join us in-person or on Zoom. If you have questions please contact the church office or the Pastor.

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. Thank you to the "Casserole Crew" for their support. **The next opportunity to provide twelve (12) breakfast casseroles is Thursday, April 28.** Please sign up using the new automated link: https://bit.ly/jhbc_April22. Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door on April 28 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

**APRIL 24, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Thomas' experience is like our own.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Acts 5:27-32	The conviction of the apostles
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4-8	Christ sends a message to John
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:4-8	A living hope
Thursday	Hebrews 11:1-22	Faith in what we do not see
Friday	Hebrews 11:23-40	The faith of the Israelite leaders
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we long to see your presence in our world. Come, Holy Spirit, that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a sign of your love for us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the faith to see and experience the love of Christ Jesus.



APRIL 24, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Walk by Faith



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you long to see?
- How do you experience Jesus in the world without seeing his physical presence?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas' story is a continuation of the story of Mary Magdalene in the garden with Jesus (John 20:1-18). She experiences grief, confusion, then recognition and a changed identity as a follower of her teacher, her Lord. The news of Jesus' resurrection seems too good to be true. Thomas experiences deep disappointment and displeasure. He has missed what the other disciples experienced a week ago and he wants that experience, too. A week later, he has his own personal encounter with the resurrected Lord and becomes the first to make the confession of faith, "*My Lord and my God.*" Jesus recognizes the importance of this personal encounter with Thomas and for all future generations of disciples. We will "see" Jesus in the body of Christ through the word announced and through water, bread, and wine. This lets the "*Word become flesh*" (John 1:14) and dwell among us today.

Discuss: How does the resurrected Lord become evident—seen—in your life?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, we thank you for coming to Thomas and the other disciples and for coming to us in suffering and in glory through your living church. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help others see Jesus through your actions and words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



If you planted an Easter Garden, enjoy the growing flowers and other plants and also notice other new growth outside during this season. As you observe the plants and marvel at God's creation, recall the saving work of Christ to redeem all that God has created. Finish by saying: **Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

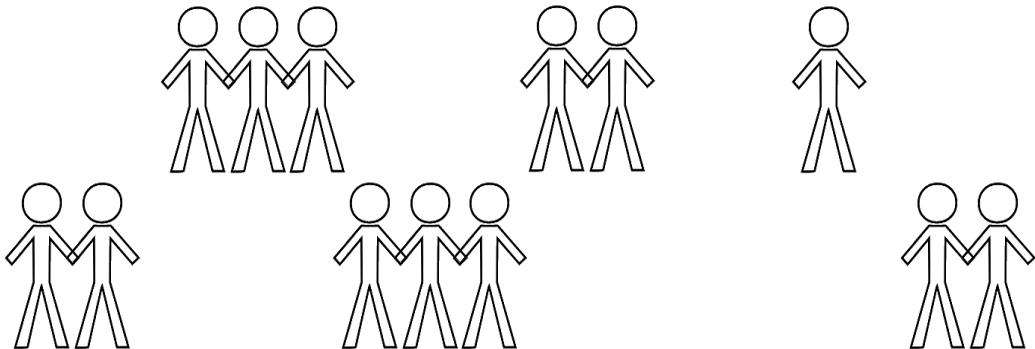
DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

We are asking that folks try not to sit directly behind each other during worship and instead sit in-between the groups in the pew directly in front of you. Think about it like taking a class picture back in school, when you had to stand in the 'window' between the two people in front of you.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.