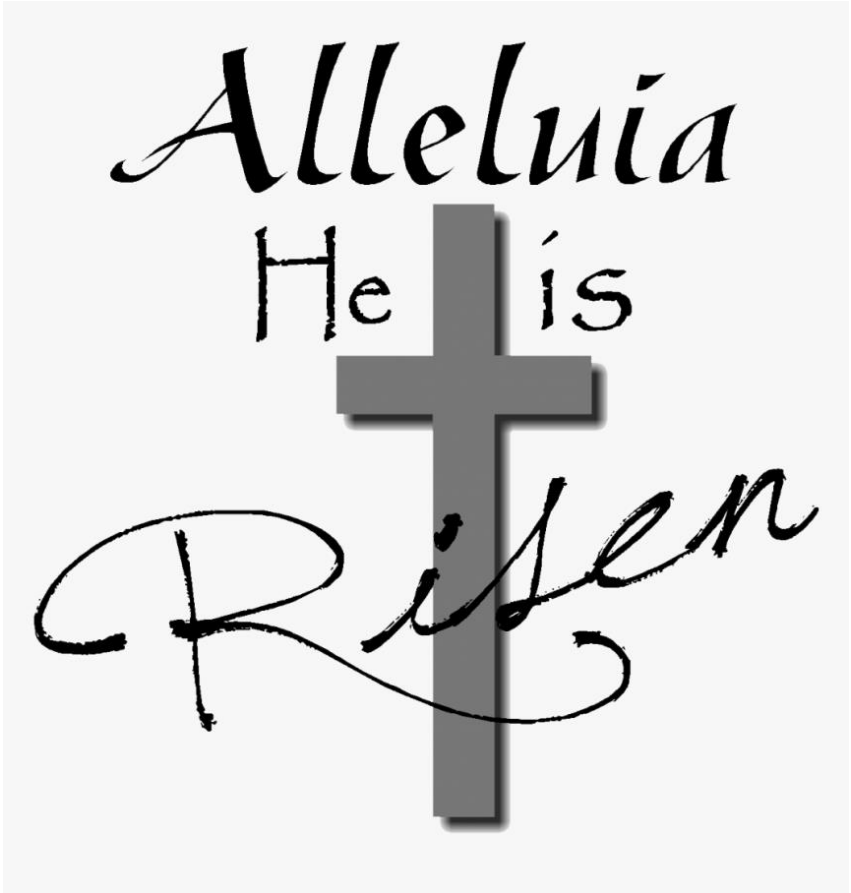


SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

7 APRIL 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 3 (PAGES 138-145)

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for
what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice
thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried
your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the
dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's
land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your
boundless baptismal life.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and
anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death
and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling
love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad
hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen
Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

HYMN #384 “THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT”

GREETING

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.

♪ KYRIE

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

**♪ This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**
**For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.**
**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...now and forever.*)

C: Amen

READINGS

ACTS 4:32-35 / PSALM 133 / 1 JOHN 1:1 – 2:2

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**♫ Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL (JOHN 20:19-31)

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH SERMON – Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

SERMON – Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

HYMN #363 “COME, YOU FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear,
let us pray for the church, the world and all those in need of
good news.

(Each petition ends: P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.)

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom
we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our
resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. *(concluding ...our Savior and Lord.)*

C: Amen.

♩ 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: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

♩ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED TODAY

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**♪ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

HYMN #815 “I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION HYMN (HYMN #619)

**♪ I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head!**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding... Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

HYMN #658 “O JESUS, JOY OF LOVING HEARTS”

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen
Organist: Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman
Acolyte: Faith Will
Lector: Marcia Edens
Communion Assistant: Cindy Burke
Usher: Neil Holmquist
Cleaners: Ray and Deb Detlefs

Contact Information:

Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/clparish1861

This Week At A Glance

Tuesday	12:00 pm	“Meet and Eat” at Buck’s Corner
Wednesday	10:00 am	Naomi Circle at Marsha Witte’s home
	6:00 pm	Confirmation at Faith
	7:00 pm	Bible Jam at Faith
Thursday	7:00 pm	Education committee at Faith
	6:00 pm	Outreach committee at Faith
	6:30 pm	Worship committee at Faith
Sunday	7:00 pm	Council meetings at Faith
	8:00 am	Worship Service at Faith
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Our Savior’s
	10:30 am	Worship Service at Our Savior’s

Those to keep in prayer: Mallory Boussetot, Diane Sievers, Jade Jensen; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Lucy Lee Petersen, Myrna Kay Peterson, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

The Youth are gathering items for the Clinton County Humane Society. There is a basket and a list of suggested items at each church.

VBS will be Monday, May 6th. Registration forms are at both churches and we would like to have them back by April 26th.

The Doubter Convinced

by William Barclay

John 20:24-29 But Thomas, who is called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." He said to them: "Unless I see the print of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the print of the nails, and unless I put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Eight days later the disciples were again in the room, and Thomas was with them. When the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood in the midst of them, and said: "Peace be to you." Then he said to Thomas: "Stretch out your finger here, and look at my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side; and show yourself not faithless but believing." Thomas answered: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You have believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and who have believed."

To Thomas the Cross was only what he had expected. When Jesus had proposed going to Bethany, after the news of Lazarus' illness had come, Thomas' reaction had been: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). Thomas never lacked courage, but he was the natural pessimist. There can never be any doubt that he loved Jesus. He loved him enough to be willing to go to Jerusalem and die with him when the other disciples were hesitant and afraid. What he had expected had happened, and when it came, for all that he had expected it, he was broken-hearted, so broken-hearted that he could not meet the eyes of men, but must be alone with his grief.

King George the Fifth used to say that one of his rules of life was: "If I have to suffer, let me be like a well-bred animal, and let me go and suffer alone." Thomas had to face his suffering and his sorrow alone. So it happened that, when Jesus came back again, Thomas was not there; and the news that he had come back seemed to him far too good to be true, and he refused to believe it. Belligerent in his pessimism, he said that he would never believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he had seen and handled the print of the nails in his hands and thrust his hand into the wound the spear had made in Jesus' side. (There is no mention of any wound-print in

Jesus' feet because in crucifixion the feet were usually not nailed, but only loosely bound to the cross.)

Another week elapsed and Jesus came back again; and this time Thomas was there. And Jesus knew Thomas' heart. He repeated Thomas' own words, and invited him to make the test that he had demanded. And Thomas' heart ran out in love and devotion, and all he could say was: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "Thomas, you needed the eyes of sight to make you believe; but the days will come when men will see with the eye of faith and believe."

The character of Thomas stands out clear before us.

(i) He made one mistake. He withdrew from the Christian fellowship. He sought loneliness rather than togetherness. And because he was not there with his fellow Christians he missed the first coming of Jesus. We miss a great deal when we separate ourselves from the Christian fellowship and try to be alone. Things can happen to us within the fellowship of Christ's Church which will not happen when we are alone. When sorrow comes and sadness envelops us, we often tend to shut ourselves up and refuse to meet people. That is the very time when, in spite of our sorrow, we should seek the fellowship of Christ's people, for it is there that we are likeliest of all to meet him face to face.

(ii) But Thomas had two great virtues. He absolutely refused to say that he understood what he did not understand, or that he believed what he did not believe. There is an uncompromising honesty about him. He would never still his doubts by pretending that they did not exist. He was not the kind of man who would rattle off a creed without understanding what it was all about. Thomas had to be sure--and he was quite right. Tennyson wrote:

"There lives more faith in honest doubt,
Believe me, than in half the creeds."

There is more ultimate faith in the man who insists on being sure than in the man who glibly repeats things which he has never

thought out, and which he may not really believe. It is doubt like that which in the end arrives at certainty.

(ii) Thomas' other great virtue was that when he was sure, he went the whole way. "My Lord and my God!" said he. There was no halfway house about Thomas. He was not airing his doubts just for the sake of mental acrobatics; he doubted in order to become sure; and when he did, his surrender to certainty was complete. And when a man fights his way through his doubts to the conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord, he has attained to a certainty that the man who unthinkingly accepts things can never reach.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain