

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125  
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### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 133 and the traditional Easter greeting)

P: How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!

**C: It is like the precious anointing oil on Aaron's head, running down upon his beard and over the collar of his robes.**

P: It is like the dew on Mount Hermon, falling on the hills of Zion.

**C: It is in Zion that the Lord promises his blessing – life that never ends.**

P: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

GATHERING HYMN: "Open Our Eyes"

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. (Repeat)**

"Open Our Eyes," words and music by Bob Cull. ©1976 Maranatha Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the Gospel lesson for today the disciples struggle with fear and doubt.

**C: In the very midst of our believing we have those same emotions.**

P: May Jesus come to us as he came to the disciples.

**C: He came through locked doors.**

P: We too, have locked doors.

**C: We too, have our times of being afraid, of doubting God.**

P: In the lesson for today from John I, chapter 1, we find these words:

**C: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

P: In worship Jesus comes to us.

**C: In receiving his body and blood we touch his wounds. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: For his sake, I say to you, as he said to his disciples, "Peace be with you." As a called and ordained pastor of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: 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. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

## THE FIRST LESSON – 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 SECOND LESSON – I 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 HOLY GOSPEL – John 20:19-31

<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.

MESSAGE: "Thomas and Dietrich"

Pastor Fred Andersen

## HYMN OF THE DAY: "Because He Lives" OSB 11

**1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.**

**Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.**

**2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives. But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives. (Chorus)**

**3. And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain. And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. (Chorus)**

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## 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 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 THE PEOPLE

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.*

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community at American Lutheran. 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.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Lord, in every age you have sent men and women who have given their lives for the message of your love. Inspire us with the memory of those martyrs for the Gospel, like St. Thomas the Evangelist and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose faithfulness led them in the way of the cross, and give us courage to bear full witness with our lives to your Son's victory over sin and death. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

**1. 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!**

**2. He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save; He lives exalted, throned above; He lives to rule his Church in love.**

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#### SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Jeanie Garrels, Sharon Vrtiska, Tanner Schmidt, our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Bryan Hill, Betty Leners (April 12), Ashton Sanders (April 16).

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** to TJ & Gina Tremain (4-11-15).

**OUR THRIVENT ACTION PROGRAM FOR APRIL IS CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children). CASA – Voices for children transform the lives of abused, abandoned or neglected children. CASA also helps parents get started back up again. Items needed for children: Coloring and activity books, colors, dvds, drawing paper and colored pencils, small stuffed animals, socks, underwear, blankets, small pillows, backpacks. Items needed for adults: soap, shampoo, deodorant, clippers, queen sheets, any bathroom item. Please bring your items to church through the month of April. The Thrivent card used for this project was from Norm Mortensen. Let us know if you would like to sponsor a project.

**EASTER LILIES:** Our thanks to the following for sharing Easter lilies with us last Sunday morning:

- ✠ Tom & Jane Young in memory of Ben & Frieda Siefkes, Charles Young and Don Noakes
- ✠ Don & Glenda Van Eperen in memory of all our loved ones

**EVERYONE IS ASKED** to bring a toy tractor (if available) to church next Sunday, April 18, as there will be a special blessing for our farmers.

**HELP NEEDED:** We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our first goal of \$150,000 and received the first check for \$1000, so now we are starting over again! You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY:** American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. Special items needed at this time are Peanut butter, Jelly, Pasta, Rice, Canned -- soup, fruit, vegetables, fish, and beans. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU for your continued support to this ministry!**

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com).

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on Facebook and on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com) with your email address.

**COMING UP:**

April 18 – Confirmation Sunday  
April 25 – Graduate Recognition  
May 2 – First Communion

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

**Council** – Dave Norton-President, Virgil Jobman-Vice President, Carol Frerichs-Secretary, Brenda Hippen-Treasurer, Linda Searcey-at large

**Reader** – Duane Lenners

**PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter** – Brenda Hippen

**Audio/Video** – Virgil Jobman

**Accompanist:** Sandy Mahler