

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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INVOCATION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

p. 119

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast"

p. 149

PRAYER of the DAY - 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.**

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 4:32-35

PSALM 133

SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 1:1 - 2:2

VERSE: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ELW # 172

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 20:19-31

REFLECTION: Thomas asks questions. He wants to know and understand. Deep faith and willingness to follow Jesus even to death are not incompatible with asking questions, even questions that sound like doubt. Thomas is an example for us for bold faith that questions and risks death for Jesus' sake.

HYMN #375 ELW

#361 LLC

"Alleluia! Christ is Arisen"

"¡Aleluya! Cristo resucitó"

NICENE CREED

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (*especially*).

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you including Cal Jenson and James Getsy. We also give thanks for Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr., and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel. Grant us your peace amid our fears.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

SHARING of the PEACE

OFFERING *Allelu, Allelu, Allelu Gracias Senor*

HOLY COMMUNION with LORD'S PRAYER **p. 129**

LLC#420/ELW#535 "Hallelujah We Sing Your Praises"

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship

WEDNESDAY 8:00 p.m. AA

Let us pray for...

Kurt Kusserow, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**

Peter Asplin, Melissa Stoller, **Assistants to the Bishop**

Elizabeth Eaton, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**

President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: George & Debbie K., asylum seekers especially children, Rachel F., Pr. Norm M., Peggy E., Marilyn & Brian H., Rose & Chip, Rita, Pres. Carter, Maritza, Jim & Judy H., Pr. Wayne Harrison, Kirk D., Georgetta C., Mason M., Sandra, Noah, Luca, Karen M., Len & Carole, Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Karen S., Fernando W., Darlene & Al, Leilani, Lana, Amy, Antonio, Deanna S., Katie and baby, Ed L., Sophia, Dayton, Mike, Jeffery, & all with flu, RSV, COVID and unknown illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: James Getsy, Cal Jenson.

NURSING HOME/Assisted Living: Evelyn Lowry (McMurray Hills Manor); Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Evelyn Rae Dodson (Harmarville Village); Georgetta Colton. (Concordia Monroeville).

CAREGIVERS: Annie T., Judy M., Chris, Chip, Rosa, Antonia, Tom M., Rebecca, Darlene.

HOUSING NEEDS: Asylum seekers, Southside campers, Hector and Yuri, Evelyn, Diorgho.

EMPLOYMENT: Derrick, Yinke, Timur, Yelisbeth, Amanda.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Iceland

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Christ Murrys ville

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Lutheran Service Society

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Redeemer Elementary

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

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

Psalm: Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**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.**

³It 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

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We 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—²this 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—³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen 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. ³¹But 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.

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