

First Sunday after Easter

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

P.O. Box 98, Okabena, MN 56161

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession

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WELCOME To all of you who are tuning in to our livestream this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 193 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Invocation and Response ... Psalm 118:22-24

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The Stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone.

C: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: This is the day that the Lord has made;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask forgiveness for the sake of our crucified and risen Savior.

C: Almighty God, through Jesus our Lord we have forgiveness and life, yet we often refuse to live as Your redeemed people. We sin against You in our thoughts, words and actions. We follow our own sinful desires instead of living according to Your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son to save us. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Though I be by sin o'ertaken, Though I lie in helplessness,
Though I be by friends forsaken And must suffer sore distress,
Though I be despised, contemned, And by all the world condemned,
Though the dark grave yawn before me,
Yet the light of hope shines o'er me.

Thou hast died for my transgression, All my sins on Thee were laid;
Thou hast won for me salvation, On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise And shall meet Thee in the skies.
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

Prayer

Epistle Lesson 1 John 5:4-10 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He

who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31 “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise And hast opened Paradise!
None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.

Profession of Faith

Hymn 208:1, 4-8 *Ye Sons and Daughters of the King*

Sermon Ephesians 2:11-18 Therefore, remember that at one time, you Gentiles in the flesh—the ones who are called “uncircumcised” by those

called “the circumcised” (which is performed physically by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separated from Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise. You were without hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility that divided them when He abolished the law of commandments and regulations in His flesh. He did this to create in Himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. And He did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it. He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. [EHV]

The “No Mas” of Easter...

Grant me grace, O blessed Savior, And Thy Holy Spirit send
That my walk and my behavior May be pleasing to the end;
That I may not fall again Into death's grim pit and pain,
Whence by grace Thou hast retrieved me
And from which Thou hast relieved me.

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer + The Benediction

Closing Hymn 732 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

PRAYERS Please remember Mary Durst in your prayers. Mary is battling pneumonia at home.

DAILY REST Subscriptions for Daily Rest are due at the end of April. We have a list of current subscribers and will plan to renew them unless we hear otherwise. If you are interested in a subscription: \$15 / year.

ELEVATOR The concrete approach was poured and the final pieces of trim are in place. It’s a job well done!

VOTERS MEETING We are currently considering ways that we might be able to hold an assembly online (those without smart phones and internet could possibly assemble in the sanctuary). Perhaps, by next weekend we will have a better handle on this and can publish an agenda.