

April 7, 2024

Vol. XXVI No. 14

The 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

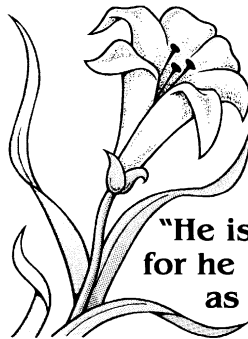
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**"He is not here;
for he is risen,
as he said."**

-Matthew 28:6

WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 193 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Order of Service Page 5 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Epistle Lesson Acts 2:14a. 22-32 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them...

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. For David says concerning Him:

‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face,
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.
Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.
For You will not leave my soul in Hades,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’

“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

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.

Hymn 732 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

Sermon 1 Peter 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

Real Living Hope

Pastor Michael Eichstadt

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 210 *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Hymn 203 *Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb*

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THANK YOU A special thanks to Dr. Sumey for handling the service today. It's a blessing that we have men who are willing to fill in for the pastor when he's away.

He and Jolene are visiting Jonah in Washington. They will return on Wednesday.

CDS EASTER SERVICE Every year, our Christian Day School students present either a special Reformation Service or a special Easter Service. They will present the latter on Sunday, April 14. There will be a potluck meal following the service.

QUARTERLY MEETING The voters will meet on Sunday, April 21, following the noon potluck. Agenda items should be given to Phil Strike as soon as possible.

CLC NEWS Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Sleepy Eye has accepted the call to Mankato.

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USHERS 04/07 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.
04/14 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
04/21 Kendall B., Larry B.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz
S. Aden, L. Baumann. B. Dronen, L. Ferguson