

Peace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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"Peace Lutheran Church ... Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word."

Our Vision: Equipping Our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work and Play.

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Easter Makes a Difference

Easter made a difference in the way a person lived. When Thomas finally met Jesus, alive again after Easter, he went from demanding proof to a personal confession of faith, "My Lord and my God." That change, the difference that Easter made, wasn't limited to the apostles; we have heard the good news as well. How will you be different after hearing this Great News?

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "The Strife is O'er, The Battle Done" **LSB 464**

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:5:10; 2:1b-2*

P This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
G **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us**

from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

C **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

P Alleluia!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that our Easter faith not be only a matter of Sunday tradition,

C **but will change how we share our joy in active love and service each day;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32–35

Pew Bible, Pg. 1084

(Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

adapt. From Matthew 28:7, Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

EPISTLE

1 John 1:1–2:2

Pew Bible, Pg. 1053

(God is light; He forgives our sins.)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Romans 6:9, John 20:29b

P Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C **Alleluia! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

Pew Bible, Pg. 1077

(Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“These Things Did Thomas Count as Real”

LSB 472

SERMON “Are You Listening?” **Randy Martens, Deacon Student**

OFFERING

- You may also give electronically:
 - Visit our web site: www.peacelcms.org
 - Click on the “Give” button or “Ministries” and then on “Online Giving”
- You may also give by text to (989) 308-4203 & then follow the instructions

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Acts 4:34-35

P We read the First Reading: “There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, as it was distributed to each as any had need.”

Let us also respond to God’s Word in song and prayer using the hymn “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” as a guide.

HYMN “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” [v.1] **LSB 848**

P Lord Jesus, we pray that You would use us and the gifts You have given to us to serve anyone in need. Open our eyes to see opportunities near and far in which we may serve Your gracious plans. All what we have and are belongs to You.

C **Risen Christ, grant us to be of one heart and soul, sharing not only our common faith but all that are and have.**

HYMN “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” [v.2] **LSB 848**

P We pray for people who are homeless, hungry, captive, and in mourning. Surround them, heavenly Father, with people of faith in our risen Savior, brothers and sisters who will tend to them with compassion and love. We pray for those near and dear to us. Wherever Your plans include us, O Lord,

C **open our hearts and hands, voices and resources to share the difference Easter makes for all who trust in our risen Savior.**

HYMN “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” [v.3] **LSB 848**

P We pray for those who are rich and those who are poor, those who influence our nation and those who live unnoticed. O Holy Spirit, be among our brothers and sisters—those who have vast resources; all who make, administer, and judge our laws; and parents, teachers, and counselors—all who know Christ as their living Lord.

C **Give them courage and caring hearts so that through them Your will shall be done.**

HYMN “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” [v.4] **LSB 848**

P We pray for our congregation, its programs of outreach and growth, and all who worship here. Lord, over all, be with us and enliven us to do Your will in Easter joy.

C **Give us strength to show forth the difference Easter makes for us. Guide and protect us, heavenly Father, that we may serve You and the people around us in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

C **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 Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

LSB 475

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

† **Our worship is over; our service begins.** †

Acknowledgments:

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