

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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## MY LORD and MY GOD



*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**APRIL 11, 2021**

**April 11, 2021**  
Second Sunday of Easter

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! (verses 1 & 4)*



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have triumphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

### *Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**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 READING: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts.

*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.*

<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 word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 133

*(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)*

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleas- | ant it is,  
when kindred live togeth- | er in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore.

## SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

A reading from 1 John.

*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.*

<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 word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### *Celtic Alleluia*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff begins with a quarter note D4, followed by a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4. The second staff begins with a quarter note A4, followed by a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5. The melody continues with various rhythmic patterns and rests, ending with a double bar line.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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## **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR BILL**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen: ¡Aleluya! Cristo resucitó (verses 1&4)***

**Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen  
¡Aleluya! Cristo resucitó**



¡A - le - lu - ya! Cris - to re - su - ci - tó  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is a - ris - en.



de ma - dru - ga - da el do - min - go.  
Bright is the dawn-ing of the Lord's day.



1 Fue - ron mu - jer - es al se - pul - cro.	La pie - dra, un
1 Run, faith - ful wom - en, to the grave - side.	Mar - vel, the
2 Rise, Mag - da - len - a, from your weep - ing;	Christ stands be -
3 Gath - er, dis - ci - ples, in the eve - ning;	sud - den - ly
4 Thom - as, where were you on that eve - ning?	"I'll not be -



án - gel re - mo - vió;	les di - jo: "Ha re - su - ci -
stone is rolled a - way!	Hear from the an - gel, "He is
fore your ver - y eyes.	Quick - ly re - turn to the dis -
Christ your Lord ap - pears.	"Look, it is I, your wound - ed
lieve un - less I see."	Christ comes a - gain, and ev - 'ry



ta - do."	Y al ir - se, les sa - lió, el Se - ñor.
ris - en."	Christ goes be - fore you all the way.
ci - ples;	bear the good news: "He is a - live."
Sav - ior.	Peace be with you, and do not fear."
Lord's day:	"Touch me and see; have faith in me."

2 *La Magdalena fue a llorarle  
y Cristo se le apareció;  
le pidió ir a sus hermanos  
con un encargo que le dio.* Estrillo

3 *A los discípulos, de tarde,  
Cristo también se presentó.  
Les enseñó las cinco heridas;  
dando la paz los saludó.* Estrillo

4 *Tomás no estaba en ese encuentro;  
y ver, pidió, para creer.  
Cristo volvió, le dijo: "Mira,  
palpa mi herida y ten fe."* Estrillo

Text: Luis Bojos, b. 1937; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951  
Music: SANTO DOMINGO, Luis Bojos, b. 1937  
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*Please stand if you are able.*



Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 CHURCH** *(Please respond.)*

*P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY

### Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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## OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

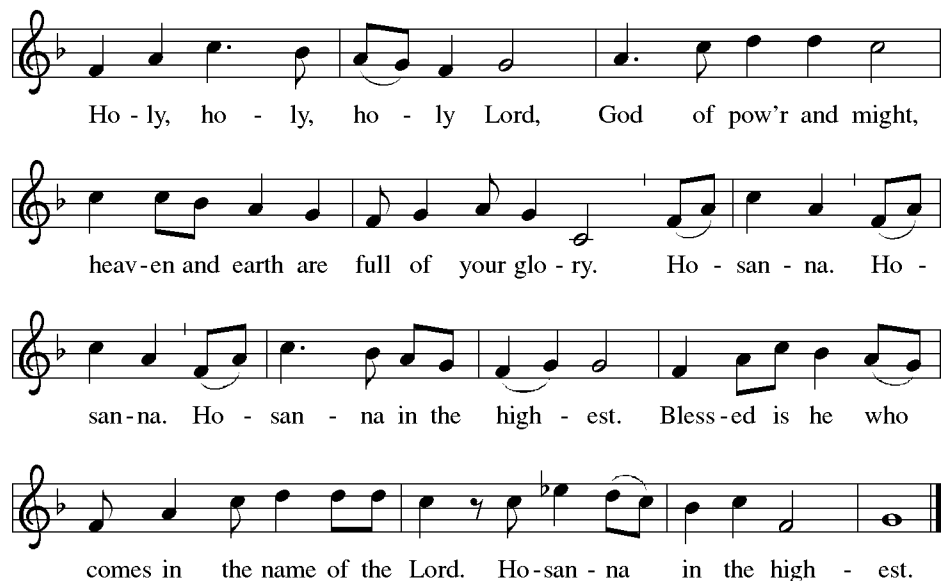
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance and keeping your mask on. Move your mask to eat the bread and drink the wine. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat with your mask on.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG *Thine Is the Glory (verses 1 & 3)*

### Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

#### *Refrain*



where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939

Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

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Head Usher .....	Bonney Coldsmith
Acolyte .....	Rebekah Aldrich
Lector.....	Katy Nienstedt
Securing Offering .....	Edna Harris & Doug Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Sam & Becky Mull
Communion Clean-Up .....	Sam & Becky Mull
Bread Cubes .....	Margie Dale
Communion Assist .....	Margie Dale
Attendance last Sunday .....	48

Stewardship Thought - Second Sunday of Easter, **April 11, 2021** *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” – 1 John 1:8*

The Creator of all has given us responsibility for our home planet. If we say we have no responsibility for being good stewards of creation, we also deceive ourselves. May we rise to the task and work for the good that God breathes into existence.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of Esther Gift's birthday and in memory of Gladys Mull with love given by her family.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**2021 Altar Flowers Chart**—Kimberly will not be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

**Prayer requests** for the following persons *Isabel Overcash, Genny Grant, Catherine Plummer, Tom Black, Phyllis Foreman, Mary Ellen Bower, April Hughes, Larry Lehman, Lee Locke, Jennifer Haughie, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Joyce Wildeson, Manny Negrón, Jerry and Peggy Tyson, Sue Ressler, Dee Dee Fox, Jody Swartz, Quentin, Linda Small Naus, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Jackson, Bonnie Hudson.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

The **annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive** will take place during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. Because of your generous support, in the past the Auxiliary was able to make donations to SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice, SpiriTrust Lutheran LIFE, SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services, as well as The Inn Endowment Fund at The Village at Luther Ridge and many other important programs and services. If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact Becky Pecha, your congregational representative.

**Relay for Life** - Help support our team by purchasing a duck for the Annual Duck Derby! One duck is \$5.00 or you can purchase a Quack Pack (6 ducks) for \$25.00. Please see Becky Mull for questions and to purchase your ticket.

Thank you for your support!

If you would like to join our Relay for Life team and do not have a computer to register with our team you may call 1-800-227-2345 and ACS will help you sign up!

**April is Paper Drive Month:** Social Ministry is collecting paper products (towels, toilet paper, napkins, hygiene products, etc.) for the Maranatha Food Pantry during April. Please drop your donations in the Sunday school room. These items will help those in need in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

The April 2021 **LivingLutheran** copies are available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

**2021 Summer Camp** information is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex for those who are interested.

**Power Packs:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. See Pastor Bill if you would like to give a monetary donation.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

**Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes** are available in the library for anyone to read.



**APRIL 11, 2021**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 20:19-31</b>	<b>Come and see and believe</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 4:32-35</b>	<b>The sharing of goods</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 John 1:1–2:2</b>	<b>The word of life</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Hebrews 11:1-40</b>	<b>The meaning of faith</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 4:7-18</b>	<b>Living by faith</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:6-10</b>	<b>We walk by faith</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 133</b>	<b>The blessing of unity</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 24:36b-48</b>	<b>Jesus appears to the disciples</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Jesus said to [Thomas], “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”* **John 20:29 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression “seeing is believing” mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*We Walk by Faith*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, *“Come and see”* (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to *“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done”* (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, *“Lord, I believe”* (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, *“I have seen the Lord”* (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people *“may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God”* and *“have life in his name”* (v. 31). Today’s disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today’s disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come *“to see,”* to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

***Pray:* Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.**

## SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God’s love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is \_\_\_\_\_. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.**