

The Good News Of Life!

The 2nd Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

What a blessing it was for the disciples to see Jesus alive again! If there was any question as to whether Jesus could deliver on His promises of life, those doubts were erased as Jesus came and stood among His disciples.

If only we could have been there . . . and yet, it's like we are!

Jesus' words to Thomas, and the Gospel writer's words which follow, tell us that God brings that Good News of Life in Jesus home to our hearts so that we may see Jesus with the eyes of faith. What a blessing to see Jesus alive again! To share this great blessing of God will always be our purpose!

WELCOME

WE SING

**"My Light, My Rock"
"Goodness of God"**

A. Asmus

WE CALL ON GOD'S NAME

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

C: Amen.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

P: We come before our God, confessing our sins to Him:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

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.

We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

(a time of quiet before the Lord)

WE HEAR GOD'S ASSURANCE OF HIS FORGIVENESS

WE PRAY

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 5:12-20

Despite being threatened, the apostles boldly proclaimed the Good News of Life.

¹⁸The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly

regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

We can believe and trust the Good News of Life in Jesus.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to His disciples after His resurrection and gives them His peace.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." ²²And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone His sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it."

²⁶A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was

with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

KIDS' TIME

Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"That You May Believe and Have Life"

Pastor Aaron Asmus

(Today's readings)

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – NICENE CREED

WE RECEIVE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

"On The Night"

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Verses 1 & 2 – solo

Verse 3 – all

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

WE RECEIVE OUR LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD

WE SING "In Christ Alone"
"Behold Our God"

COMMUNION BLESSING

WE BRING OUR PRAYERS BEFORE THE LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING

"Empty Grave"

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.