

Zion Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
413 Avenue D East, Bismarck, North Dakota
Website: zionbismarck.org
Email: zionlcmsbis@gmail.com
(701) 223-8286
Find us on Facebook, search: *Zion Lutheran Church*
The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Pastor
Ben Ramthun – Vicar
Kristin Nistler – Director of Family Ministry

Liturgy: Pastor Christianson
Sermon: Vicar Ramthun
Organist: Kathy Rooke

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed
April 11, 2021 – 10:45 AM



AS WE GATHER

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, “My Lord and my God!”

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done” *LSB 464*

ref **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- 1 **The strife is o’er, the battle done;
Now is the victor’s triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun.
Alleluia!**
- 2 **The pow’rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!**
- 3 **The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!**
- 4 **He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.
Alleluia!**
- 5 **Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee.
Alleluia! Refrain**

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:6–10

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

People: we lie and do not practice the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

People: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

People: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: If we say we have not sinned,

People: we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: 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.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT

Psalm 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3

Pastor: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

People: if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Tell of All His Wonderful Works

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

People: make known his deeds among the peoples!

Pastor: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

People: tell of all his wondrous works!

Pastor: Glory in his holy name;

People: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Pastor: Seek the Lord and his strength;

People: seek his presence continually!

Pastor: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

People: his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

Pastor: He remembers his covenant forever,

People: the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

Pastor: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation

People: if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

I know that my Redeemer lives, the One who calls me home.

I long to see God face to face, to see with my own eyes.

Refrain

I know that my Redeemer lives, That I shall rise again.

I know that my Redeemer lives, That I shall rise again.

**I know that I shall one day see the goodness of the Lord,
When God will wipe away our tears, and death will be no more. (Refrain)**

The last day I shall rise again, shall be remade like God.

My home shall be by God’s own side, the dying rising Lord. (Refrain)

Scott Soper p. 510 Spirit and Song 1990 OCP Publications 2880771

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32–35

(The believers were of one heart and soul.)

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 1:1–2:2

(If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things

so that our joy may be complete. 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. 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. 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. 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. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

(Blessed are those who have not heard and yet believe.)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them 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. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending 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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"This Joyful Eastertide" *LSB* 482

1 This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain

ref Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!

2 **Death's flood has lost its chill**
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver: Refrain

3 **My flesh in hope shall rest**
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number: Refrain

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SERMON

“”

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Create In Me”

Chorus
Create in me a clean heart oh God
That I might serve You
Create in me a clean heart oh God
That I might be renewed

So fill me and heal me
And bring me back to You
Create in me a clean heart oh God
That I might serve You

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✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

“Holy”

**Holy, holy holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna on high. Hosanna on high.
Blessed is he who comes in the name, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna on high. Hosanna on high.
Hosanna on high.**

Tom Booth, Mass of Life, ©1993, OCP Publications

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God”

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Prince of Peace, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Worthy is the Lamb (with Crown Him with Many Crowns)”

**Thank You for the cross, Lord;
Thank you for the price You paid;
Bearing all my sin and shame,
In love You came, and gave amazing grace;
Thank You for this love, Lord;
Thank you for the nail pierced hands;
Washed me in Your cleansing flow,
Now all I know - Your forgiveness and embrace.**

**Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne;
Crown You now with many crowns,
You reign victorious; High and lifted up,
Jesus, Son of God, the darling of heaven crucified;
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.**

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon the throne;
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own;
Awake, my soul, and sing, Of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as they matchless King through all eternity.**

**Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne;
Crown You now with many crowns,
You reign victorious; High and lifted up,
Jesus, Son of God, the darling of heaven crucified;
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.**

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“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” *LSB 487*

**1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.**

**2 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst His prison
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From His light, to whom is giv'n
Laud and praise undying.**

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright
With the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts
Comes its joy to render;
Comes to gladden faithful hearts
Which with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strain
Jesus' resurrection!

4 For today among His own
Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore
Passes human knowing.
Neither could the gates of death
Nor the tomb's dark portal
Nor the watchers nor the seal
Hold Him as a mortal.

5 Alleluia! Now we cry
To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars
Of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness!

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DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, heavenly Father, by Your tender love toward us sinners, You have given us Your only Son, that believing in Him, we may have everlasting life. By Your Holy Spirit, give to us Your comfort in trouble and guard us against all doubt, that we remain steadfast in the faith and come, at last, to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20–21; Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“When Peace, like a River” *LSB* 763

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain

ref It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. Refrain

3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. Refrain

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