

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool April 7, 2024

## Second Sunday of Easter

**Rev. Paul Pfeffer**

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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### All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.

If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus.

His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer.

We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*– Silence for reflection –*

*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 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**



## **SONG: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today – ELW #365 (vs 1, 2, 4)**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, with you 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.**

## **READING – Acts 4:32-35**

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. With great power the apostles gave 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 owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of  
what was sold. 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*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 133**

How very good and pleasant it is  
**when kindred live together in unity!**

It is like the precious oil on the head,  
**running down upon the beard,**  
on the beard of Aaron,  
**running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon,  
**which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
**life forevermore.**

## **READING – 1 John 1:1 to 2:2**

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 – 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– what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 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 there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that 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, 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.*

– Please stand as you are able –

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.  
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

## **THE GOSPEL – John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to You, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 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.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, 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 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.”

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.” 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.” 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 come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue 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 our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

## **SERMON – Rev. Paul Pfeffer**

## SONG: Open Our Eyes, Lord

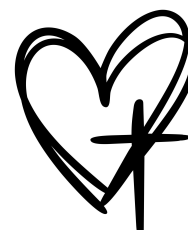
Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.  
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.  
Open our ears Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes Lord. We want to see Jesus. **(Repeat)**

## APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

*Hear us, O God... Your mercy is great.*



## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*

*– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

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



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **All are welcome.**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SONG: We Are Marching in the Light, ELW #866

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

1. We are **marching** in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God.  
We marching... We are marching, oh. We are marching in the light of God.  
We marching... We are marching, oh. We are marching in the light of God.
2. We are **dancing** in the light of God...
3. We are **praying** in the light of God...
4. We are **singing** in the light of God...

## DISMISSAL

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PreSchool Birthday Bash & Bazaar – Saturday, April 27 from 10 to 2.** Please come and shop! Invite your friends!
- **Mother's Day Bags April 28** – Sue's Pantry asked if we could create a treat for the many women she serves. Holly is gathering items for us to pack gift bags. Assembly date tentatively planned for April 28 after church. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the items, please reach out to Holly ([HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)). Thank you.
- **Caring Hands** – April TBD, May 18, June 15 from 9 to noon.
- **Scout Troop 273 Ice Cream Social** – April 13 from 2 to 5 at Middle South
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Padraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, gloves, feminine products, and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. New wishlist diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, cough drops, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, coats, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa ([tcalabrese98@gmail.com](mailto:tcalabrese98@gmail.com)).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you.