

# CHRIST'S UNITED ✠ ST. JAMES ✠ FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Ashland/Pitman/Hegins

Second Sunday of Easter ✠ April 19, 2020

PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We ask you today and throughout this time of anxiety and confusion, to pray for one another, for our respective faith communities, for our Church and civic leaders, and all those in our nation and around the world affected by the spread of the Coronavirus, especially those most at risk, and of course, those who face death and their loved ones.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to call Pastor Mark or Pastor Laura at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. And please visit our websites for more information in the days ahead: [www.thefriedenslutheran.com](http://www.thefriedenslutheran.com) or [www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org) or [www.stjamespitmanpa.com](http://www.stjamespitmanpa.com).
- *Remember, that the work of the Church continues even now. We urge you to continue your financial giving to the life of your congregation. If possible, please mail in your offering or use electronic means to continue your weekly giving. These are difficult days for all of us, including our congregations.*

Trusting in our crucified and risen savior, we look ahead in confident hope, knowing that Christ Jesus is the victorious Lord of life.

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## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image

and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.  
When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN LBW#132 "COME, YOU FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN"**

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 the twelve  
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!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John  
M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray...Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions that fill our everyday lives, we experience the resurrection as we hear God's Word, especially in the midst of sickness, suffering, and death. As the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice today in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

### **FIRST LESSON:           1 PETER 1:3-9**

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA**

*Alleluia.* Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. *Alleluia.* (John 20:29)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the 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.**

## THE SERMON

*Pastor Mark Swanson*

### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** *A sign of peace is shown by bowing.*

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### THE PRAYERS

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, open the doors we close when we fear those who are different from us. Lead us to a spirit of unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish what we have in common with others. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, open the paths we ignore when we prioritize our own gain and convenience rather than listening to the groaning of this hurting earth. Inspire us to care for the world you have made so that your people and all living things might flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, open the rooms we lock to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. Lord, just as you were a stranger in a foreign land and sought a place of sanctuary, we pray that you will open our hearts to offer refuge and peace for all who seek a home. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, open our hearts to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally during these most difficult days. We especially pray for those suffering through addiction, mental illness, chronic pain, grief, and for those we so often seek to ignore, but for whom our Lord called us to minister: those in prison, the lonely, the poor, the outcast, the least and the lost...and for all in need whom we name before you (*pause*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, open us to your ways of love. Make us into your peacemakers. Bless the work of all healthcare professionals, emergency responders, scientists, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way as they labor to alleviate suffering and find a cure for this plague that has afflicted all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, open the way to eternal life as we remember those who have died in faith. Free us from the fear of death, that we may embrace the peace you have promised and bear witness to resurrection life given in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## 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**

## BENEDICTION

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he promised.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## HYMN LBW#139 "O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1 O sons and daughters  
of the King,  
whom heav'nly hosts  
in glory sing,  
today the grave has lost its  
sting! Alleluia!

2 That Easter morn,  
at break of day,  
the faithful women  
went their way  
to seek the tomb  
where Jesus lay. Alleluia!

3 An angel clad in white  
they see,  
who sits and speaks  
unto the three,  
"Your Lord will  
go to Galilee." Alleluia!

4 That night the apostles  
met in fear;  
among them came  
their master dear,  
and said, "My peace  
be with you here." Alleluia!

5 When Thomas first the  
tidings heard,  
that they had seen  
the risen Lord,  
he doubted the  
disciples' word. Alleluia!

6 "My pierced side,  
O Thomas, see,  
and look upon my hands,  
my feet;  
not faithless,  
but believing be." Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas  
then denied;  
he saw the feet,  
the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!"  
he cried. Alleluia!

8 How blest are they  
who have not seen,  
and yet whose faith  
has constant been,  
for they eternal life  
shall win. Alleluia!

9 On this most  
holy day of days,  
be laud and jubilee  
and praise:  
to God your hearts  
and voices raise. Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John M.  
Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

POSTLUDE



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**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....**

**1 PETER 1:3-9:** *This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

**JOHN 20:19-31:** *The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

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**LEADING WORSHIP**

**PRESIDING** Pr. Laura Csellak and Pr. Mark Swanson  
**VIDEOGRAPHER** Mr. Gary Klinger

***THIS WEEK ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR, WE REMEMBER...***

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020: OLAVUS PETRI, priest, died 1552; LAURENTIUS PETRI, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; RENEWERS OF THE CHURCH.**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020: ANSELM, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109**

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020: TOYOHICO KAGAWA, renewer of society, died 1960**

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020: ST. MARK, EVANGELIST**

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.