



**2nd Sunday in Easter
April 24, 2022**

Rev. Kelley L. Pedersen, Interim Pastor

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Welcome & Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

Amen.

***Hymn** "Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing" #389

***Greeting**

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

***Prayer of the Day**

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen
Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the
body of your Son, 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 5:27-32

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His
response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of
forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high
priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet
here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this
man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather
than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had
killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior
that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to
these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 118:14-29

You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**

and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵**Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷**The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.**

Second Reading: Revelations 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 102**

*The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord**

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.**

Message

Hymn of the Day "That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright" #384

***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 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**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life.
God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Uphold your children who cry out to you (*especially*). Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise (*especially the art and music ministries of this congregation*). With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***Peace**

May the peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering

***Doxology #884**

***Offering Prayer**

Living God,

you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together

in your peaceable reign,

and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal,

and show us your wounded and risen body,

that we may be nourished and believe

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. We praise your name and join their unending hymn.

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** p. 145

***Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

Communion (continuous)

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats or use the individual pre-packaged elements at their seats may stand to hear the words for individual distribution.

Distribution Hymns: #763-My Life Flows on in Endless Song, #783- Praise and Thanks and Adoration

***Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, generous God,

for in this bread and cup

we have tasted the new heaven and earth

where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***Blessing**

God, the Author of life,

Christ, the living Cornerstone,

and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn** "Thine is the Glory" #376

***Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.

Liturgy is from Sundays & Seasons, reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000556. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Permission to print/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-737358. All rights reserved.

Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

Derek DeWitt is currently deployed and has been for a couple months. If you are interested in taking part in sending him a care package, please let Sadie know.

Let Your Light Shine--The 34th Annual Convention of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization will be held June 18, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Milford, IA. There are copies of the registration and further information on the usher's table for those interested.

If you would like something included in the May newsletter, please get it to the church office by Friday, April 29.

This Week's Events: Apr 25-May 1

Mon.		Office Closed
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	10:00am	Adult Bible Study
	3:30-5pm	KidsZone (last one)
	6:00-7pm	Confirmation
Sun. May 1	9:00am	3rd Sunday of Easter

Upcoming Events:

Sun. May 8	9:00am	Graduate Reception (graduates please wear you cap and gown)
------------	--------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Worship Assistants for April:

Organist: Jacob Martin	Altar Guild: Susan & Roger Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Blake Stratton	Offertory Accountants: Julie Davidson & Nick Wahlberg
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: TBD	Crucifer: Brodie Nelson

Worship Assistants for May:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Patti & Dave Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Lisa Rippke	Offertory Accountants: Lisa & Steve Rippke
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: Lexi Gilbert	Crucifer: Alyssa Orlando

Birthdays: 25 – Marty Riediger, Keely Steffen; 26 – Oaklynn Black; 28 – Nick Wahlberg

Anniversaries: 27 – Joyce & Phillip Sanderson; 28 – Michaela & Norman Peterson

Prayers

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke-Cancer has returned and seems to be spreading, is at home recovering from chemo; Brad Pautsch (Cindy Ploen's brother)-In Remission.

We also pray for Norma Thies; Carla Boggs; Jon Kleemeier-rehab at home; Barb Kunkel; Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)- was hospitalized with Covid, now home but still dealing with problems; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm (10-yrs old)-Crohn's, in remission!; Kelly Martin; Jan Reese-fell and broke her hip, doing well at Sunrise finishing OT and PT before returning home; Sherry Beaver-fell at home and fractured her C1 in 2 places, will need to wear a neck brace for 4-6 months; Derek DeWitt- deployed; **Barb Allner-in ICU at Mercy with carotid artery problems;** those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

On Ushers' Table:

- Children's bulletins
- Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
- 2022 April-June Devotional (large and small print available)
- Seminal sheets for confirmation students
- Lakeside Bible Camp flyers (for anyone interested in going or being a counselor)
- April newsletter

God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

Electronic giving	\$ 130.00
Mission Support	\$ 30.00
KidsZone	\$ 30.00
Maundy Thursday	\$ 245.00
Good Friday	\$ 110.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$ 4,222.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,767.00

P.O. Box 239 Merville IA 51039 873-3327

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church, Merville

Email: tlchurchmerville@gmail.com OR tlchurch@wiatel.net

Website: www.trinitylutheranmerville.org

YouTube: Trinity Lutheran Church, Merville IA