

April 16, 2023

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road Okemos, MI 48864 517-349-0620

Second Sunday of Easter / Confirmation Sunday

To make disciples for Jesus Christ...
...we Gather in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
...we Equip the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
...we Serve the world in the name of Jesus Christ

| Pastor: | Ellen Schoepf |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Music Director: | Debra Borton-McDonough |
| Organist/Pianist: | Bruce Williams |
| Church Secretary: | Katie Love |
| Youth & Education Director | Pam Williams |
| Sound TechniciansJustin | Brown, Zachary Hereza & Raymond Herek |
| Pastor's email: | prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org |
| Church email: | faith@faithlutheranokemos.org |
| Website: | www.faithlutheranokemos.org |
| Facebook Page: | facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos |

Introduction to the day

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

PRELUDE

"Glad Adoration"

(arr. Cathy DeRousse and Kevin McChesney)
Faith Bells
Kate Magyar, flute

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

A reading from Acts.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

- ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.
- ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.
- ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

- ¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
- ²All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.
- ³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.
- ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.
- ⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.
- ⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.
- ⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;

my body also shall rest in hope.

- ¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.
- ¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 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.

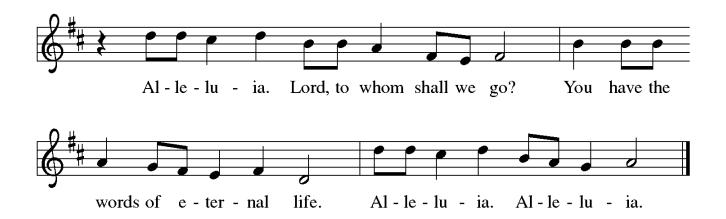
A reading from 1 Peter.

³Blessed 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: 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.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Risen Christ



Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver. Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, and for this young woman, one with us in the body of Christ, who is making a public affirmation of her baptism.

A representation of the congregation presents those making affirmation. I present:

Samantha Magyar

who desires to make a public affirmation of her baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Samantha whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Affirmation of Baptism

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do and I ask God to help me.

People of God, do you promise to support this young woman of our congregation and pray for her in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The minister and all those gathered may lay both hands on the head of the confirmed and say: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Samantha the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

Amen

Those making public affirmation face the assembly.

A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with our sister in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

All return to their places in the congregation and the worship service then continues with prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

"A Festival Introit for Easter"

(Price and Besig)

Chancel Choir Eli Rachlin, trumpet

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

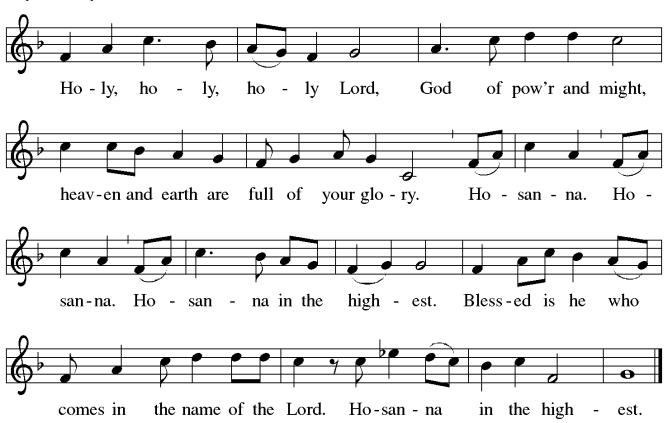
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

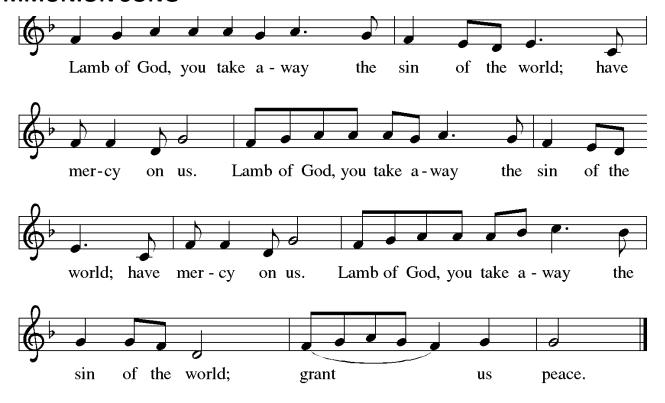
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"Christ is Alive"

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Please stand if you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

arr. Mark Thallander

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Offerings

| 4/2 | | | 4/9 | | |
|------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|------|----------|
| Loose Cash | \$ | 32.00 | Loose Cash | \$ | 203.00 |
| General Fund | \$ | 1,865.00 | General Fund | \$ | 5,940.00 |
| Memorials | \$ | 575.00 | Flowers | \$ | 34.00 |
| Building Rental | \$ | 100.00 | Samaritas Easter Baskets | \$ | 201.00 |
| Green Team T-Shirts | \$ | 60.00 | Other | \$ | 1359.99 |
| Other | \$ | 1,100.00 | Pantry Fund | \$ | 499.75 |
| Caring Committee | \$ | 200.00 | Parish House | \$ | 25.00 |
| Flowers | \$ | 68.00 | Youth | \$ | 4.00 |
| Pantry Fund | \$ | 75.00 | Subtotal | \$ 8 | 3,266.74 |
| Parish House | \$ | 75.00 | Vanco | | |
| Subtotal | \$ | 4,150.00 | General Operating | \$ 5 | 5,296.40 |
| Vanco | | | Building | \$ | 125.00 |
| General Operat | ing\$ | 310.90 | Caring | \$ | 50.00 |
| Pantry Fund | \$ | 179.63 | Pantry | \$ | 50.00 |
| Total | \$ | 4,640.53 | Parish House | \$ | 50.00 |
| | | | Total | \$1 | 3,838.14 |

January 1-February 28th, 2023 Income \$50,508.00 Expenses \$56,221.00 Net Income (Loss) \$ (5,713.00)

Altar Care: Heidi Bowers Greeters: Rich Weingartner

Lay Assistant: Kim O'Brien Acolyte: Open

Ushers: Walter & Brenda Kopf Coffee Hour: Confirmation

Reader: John McCracken Nursery: Open

Announcements:

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS ON APRIL 23 AT 9:00 A.M. A STUDY ON CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH

Beginning on Sunday, April 23, John Schleicher and Rich Weingartner will co-teach a six-session study on *Civic Life and Faith*. This study curriculum was created by the Task Force on Civic Life and Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and published by the ELCA's churchwide organization as a critical step toward development of a social teaching statement. The curriculum invites participants to delve into the nature of politics, the meaning of the Scriptures, the purpose of government, the responsibility of congregations and church-related organizations, First Amendment issues, the relationship of faith-based living and civic life, connections between worship life and serving neighbor in society, the nature of citizenship, and other relevant topics. These are weighty and difficult discussions for people of faith! We invite you to join John and Rich for this new class.



A special congregational meeting will be held at noon on Sunday, April 23 for the purpose of considering issuing a 2-year transitional call to Pastor Bruce Thorsen to serve as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, to determine the compensation therefor, and to authorize the Church Council to take such action and enter into such agreement(s) as may be required to accomplish the call.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 30th following morning worship.



Friday, May 5 – The Islamic Center community will join us here at Faith Lutheran Church for a catered

Halal dinner, and John Schleicher and the Imam will present a program on the Similarities and Points of Contact between Ramadan and Lent. The schedule for the evening looks like this:



6:00 – 6:30, gathering time as people get to know others

6:30 – 7:00, dinner

7:00 - 7:30, program

7:30 – and on, Questions & Answers

For these events, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex. You can also sign up by using this link.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094caaa623a3f49-interfamith



There will also be a signup sheet for **Wharton Tickets to Jesus Christ Superstar** (thank you Rich Weingartner). The date for this show is Sunday, June 18th (Fyi- this is Father's Day) at 1:00 pm. Rich was able to get a group rate for tickets so the price is \$82 per ticket. A \$1 handling fee per order will also be charged. Orders and payments must be made by May 5th. What a great opportunity for Faith friends to see this rock opera that has wowed audiences for over 50 years!

W H A R T O N

Today is the last day to RSVP for Pastor Ellen's retirement dinner on Saturday, April 29th. Please see an usher for an RSVP handout. We look forward to seeing you there.

