



Sunday, April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

St. Mark Lutheran Church

1515 S. Harris Rd.

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

stmarkypsi.com

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PRELUDE: Jesus is Alive

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.

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

OPENING SONG: Walkin' Into the Light

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy 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.**

FIRST READING: ACTS 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now 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. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We 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—²this 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—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Beth Birkholdt

SERMON HYMN: Blessed Are Those

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APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 THE PEOPLE

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid.

(A time of silence as we lift up those on our prayer list.)

† We lift up especially Beth Hall, Sissy Howard, Louise Conklin, Christina Wallman, Linda Campbell, Pastor Lauren Kirsh-Carr, Pastor Sean Ewbank, Mick Boone, Nickole Calmeyn, Maurice Stovall, Chloe Bray and her parents, Tina Karns, Dawn Stovall, Justin Stovall, Jim Wallman, Jacob Wallman, Alex Calmeyn, Zack Calmeyn, and Misty Calmeyn.

† We continue to pray for Richard, Terry, Charlene, Melissa, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Ben, and Dusty.

† God of great compassion and love, grant comfort and peace to those grieving the loss of their loved ones:

† Karen Marie Slaton, aunt of Maurice Stovall. Be with the family and friends grieving for Karen, especially her nephew Maurice.

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

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community of St. Mark. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace. You are invited to call or text someone and simply say "peace!"

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in Heaven

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: Meekness and Majesty

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Thank you for continuing to give to the work God is doing through St. Mark Lutheran Church. You can give by mailing your gift directly to the church. You can also give your gift by going online to www.stmarkypsi.com. Your gifts continue to sustain and nourish our ministries here at St. Mark, so thank you.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Shine, Jesus, Shine

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ENCIRCLED WITH PRAYER

- ✝ Recognizing the power of prayer, please join us in praying at home throughout this week for those whose needs are known to us and those whose cares we do not know.
- ✝ We lift up especially Beth Hall, Sissy Howard, Louise Conklin, Christina Wallman, Linda Campbell, Pastor Lauren Kirsh-Carr, Pastor Sean Ewbank, Mick Boone, Nickole Calmeyn, Maurice Stovall, Chloe Bray and her parents, Tina Karns, Dawn Stovall, Justin Stovall, Jim Wallman, Jacob Wallman, Alex Calmeyn, Zack Calmeyn, and Misty Calmeyn.
- ✝ We continue to pray for Richard, Terry, Charlene, Melissa, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Ben, and Dusty.
- ✝ God of great compassion and love, grant comfort and peace to those grieving the loss of their loved ones:
 - ✝ Karen Marie Slaton, aunt of Maurice Stovall. Be with the family and friends grieving for Karen, especially her nephew Maurice.

Please contact us at office@stmarkypsi.com if you need prayer for yourself or those dear to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Commitment: At our Annual Congregational Meeting on March 21, St. Mark members agreed to move forward with two action items:

1. Re-do the Stewardship Commitment process and collect new/revised pledges. (This is the first step toward creating a revised budget prior to meeting with the Bishop about our options.)
2. Communicate the current synod guidelines regarding reopening our church building and returning to in-person worship.

Members should have received their packets either by email or in the mail. If you do not have yours yet, please contact us at office@stmarkypsi.com

We ask that all Commitment forms be completed by **today**.

Coffee Hour: We invite everyone – members and guests – to join us for a time of fellowship immediately after this service ends. Link to the Zoom meeting is on our website's homepage.