

**Parish Three Lutheran Churches
9:00 AM St. John's, Woden, IA**



**April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter
Pastor John Heille**

Today's introduction:

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 AND MEDITATION

Nancy Beenken, Organist

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER PROCLAMATION (spoken boldly)

P: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

P: The angel spoke to the disciples, "Don't be alarmed," he said.

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified. He is risen."

Alleluia!

C: Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

GATHERING HYMN

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

ELW # 373

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

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.**

(Please be seated)

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 133 (read responsively)

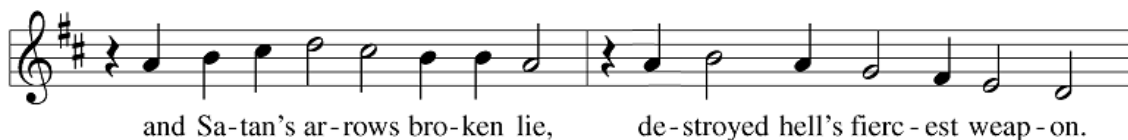
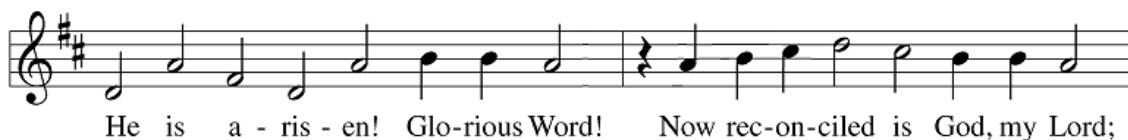
¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

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.

HYMN / NOISY OFFERING

"He is Arisen! Glorious Word!"



Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia..."

ELW p. 142

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

Response before the Gospel

All: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

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.

Response after the Gospel

All: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

ELW #379

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

EASTER CREED and BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

P: Here is water, the place where your life in the Lord began.

Once you were no people; now you are God's people.

Do you believe in God the Father?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, 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.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all evil works and ways?

Do you renounce your old, dead life?

C: Yes, for once we were dead in our sins, but now we are alive in Christ Jesus!

P: Is it your desire to live as an Easter alleluia?

C: We will continue to celebrate the presence of God's love in our lives. We will continue to grow with each other in Christ, our risen Lord. We will live as Easter alleluias!

PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

ELW #377

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to everyone worshipping today: those attending in person, those attending the Care Center live-stream and anyone joining YouTube Iowa Lutherans. And a big Thank You to all those participating in worship services: organists, readers, live-streamers, ushers, communion preparers and servers, etc.

Prayer Concerns

We offer prayers of healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: Russ Bruns, all active military, our folks in the nursing homes, those suffering from disasters, and our Bishops Eaton & Halaas.

THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE

4/8/2024	7:00 PM	Parish Three Council meeting @ St. John's
4/9/2024	1:00 PM	Quilting @ St. John's
4/10/2024	6:00 PM	WOW @ St. John's
4/14/2024	9:00 AM	Worship @ Immanuel w/Holy Communion
4/14/2024	10:00 AM	125 th Meeting @ Immanuel
4/14/2024	1:00 PM	Music Committee Meeting @ Immanuel
4/14/2024	4:15 PM	Youth Group meets @ Good Hope

PARISH THREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Elsie Planz** is our "most senior" Immanuel and Parish Three member and is celebrating 101 years on April 8. You can help her celebrate by sending a card or birthday greetings to: PO Box 390, Joaquin, TX 75954.



****Please return your piggy banks NOW!** We'd like to accumulate a total amount by April 10. Proceeds are designated for ELCA World Hunger (God's Global Barnyard). The piggy banks accept checks or paper currency as well as loose change.

****A First Communion Workshop** for kids and a parent/other adult will be held on Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 PM at Good Hope. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12th. First Communion is open to children when their parents believe they are ready. Please let Pastor John know ASAP if your child will be attending.

****Thank you from Kyle and Maddie Post:** "Isaac Allen Post was born Tuesday, March 26 at 4:16 AM and was 7 lbs 10 oz and 21" long. We are very excited for this new chapter and would like to thank all those who have supported our little family." Congratulations, Kyle and Maddie!

****Woden's 125th Celebration** will be held July 20 - 21, 2024. Pictures and information about Woden throughout the last 125 years are being requested and can be sent to woden125th@gmail.com or dropped off at the Woden Library or City Hall. There is more information on the hot pink poster on St. John's bulletin board.

****Immanuel 125th Celebration T-shirts and RSVPs:** T-shirt orders will be taken soon. They will only be available if ordered and paid in advance. Watch for the **RSVP** cards for the Saturday evening meal that will be in your church mailboxes this month.

****Immanuel will be collecting memorabilia** to display at the upcoming 125th celebration. Start gathering your things and watch for a Sunday to bring them. All items will be returned; make sure your name is on them to ensure that they are returned.

****A couple invitations from the Titonka Care Center:** You are invited to attend an **Antique Toy Show** at the Titonka Care Center on Thursday, April 12th at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the show.
You are invited you to attend a **Quilt Show** on Saturday, April 20th at 2;30 p.m. at the Titonka Care Center. Refreshments will be served after the show.

****Thank you for your support to date for the Church of the Damascus Road (CODR),** the prison ministry in the men’s Fort Dodge Prison. The Men’s Halfway House (the re-entry program) would appreciate donations of the following items:

Used, clean and in good condition: men’s coats, gloves, hats, sweatshirts and sweatpants (XL-3X), shirts (XL-5X), belts (all sizes), shoes (tennis shoes, black dress, non-slip and work boots), towels, washcloths, and plastic hangers.

New: socks (size 6-12), underwear (L-3X)

There are collection boxes in the back of St. John’s and Immanuel. Please bring your items by April 14. Thank you!

