

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
DAILY WALKING WITH CHRIST - EASTER WEEK 2
Pastor Christian Magnell, Pastor John R. Hanson
April 4, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Julie Hanson, Musician

COMMON THREAD

Trust in piety and magic have no place in the Christian faith. We dare not trust anything but the name of Jesus. As the old hymn says, our "hope is built on nothing less" (Edward Mote). Christ alone is our righteousness. We are "clothed in his righteousness alone," not in a righteousness of our own power or piety. We cannot effect our own righteousness, as God is our righteousness. This is how we are made into God's children: through faith in the name. This is how we will boldly face him on that day: at peace in his righteousness.

THEME AND VERSE

Come and see the love God has given to us. Come and see what it means to be children of God. Come with the sure hope that Christ's presence is real. Come, with joy, to see the Lord.

Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you."

HYMN

"Lord of the Dance"

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
I came down from heaven, and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

***Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he;
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body, and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance, and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

CCLI Song # 78529 CCLI License # 1713417

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

The resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples bringing them his peace. He opened their minds to the scriptures so they understood that what had happened in his death and resurrection was a necessary fulfillment of the scriptures. Jesus then promised the gift of the Holy Spirit and commissioned the disciples to be his witnesses in all nations once they had received the Holy Spirit.

³⁶As {the disciples} were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These

are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us repent and turn to God so that our sins may be wiped out.

Saving Lord, we have received the faithful witness of the resurrection, but we hide our joy and are reluctant servants of Jesus. We do not offer real hope as ministers to the needs of others. We continue disbelief, doubt and even fear in Christ's presence. Instead of building on the foundation of our Lord, the Author of life, we center our living and faith in our own property, power and piety. Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we can name and from the sins we hide.

Jesus lives. The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Our Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to take away our sins. Our sins are forgiven. To the glory of God the Father we are made righteous. See the love our Heavenly Father gives us, that we are called children of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we may begin to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in Christ's name to all nations.

To the glory of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:30 a.m.)

SHARING OF THE PEACE
CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, lay your healing hand upon all who are sick. Make your loving presence known to those who are lonely. Give strength to those who are weak. May those who lack be filled, those who mourn be comforted, those who worry be calmed, and those who seek forgiveness find it in Jesus Christ through whom we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"Behold, What Manner of Love"

Burgundy # 218

Behold, what manner of love the Father has given unto us;
Behold, what manner of love the Father has given unto us,
That we should be called the children of God,
That we should be called the children of God.

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READING: Acts 3:11-21

Following a miraculous healing, Peter attracted a crowd and seized the opportunity to interpret what happened in light of faith in the name of Jesus. Giving glory to God for the healing, Peter then preached the good news that Jesus was, in fact, the Messiah and called those gathered to repent and turn to God.

¹¹While {the lame man who had been healed} clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name — by faith

in his name — has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

READING: 1 John 3:1-7

John declares the immense magnitude of God's love by telling his readers that we are God's children now. This adoption and new identity is not something for which we must wait. Nor is it something which we can earn, but it is God's lavish gift to us in our present reality. While what we will be at Christ's return is still unknown, this new reality as children of God is an unalterable fact of our identity.

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who makes a

practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

Green # 474

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

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SERMON - *Changes*

HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Burgundy # 192

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

***On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.***

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING PRAYER

Great God of great mercy: This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection resounding in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your gift of peace! We joyfully present these offerings to you, a chorus of thanksgiving and a harmony of hope for our work in your kingdom! Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of each dawn and new day, we are grateful for your loving mercies. You rid us of our fear and doubt, suspicion and mistrust. You replace them with hope, peace, love, and joy. You call us out of our darkened hideaways to be your witnesses. Be with us in ministries of healing and hope through this church into our community, region, nation, and world. Give us courage and strength in all the circumstances in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

If the God who raised Jesus from the dead is for us, who dare be against us? We step out into the world in humble confidence.

We live empowered by God's love.

The peace of God, which goes beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen! We go in Christ's name to love and serve!

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Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotional *“And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’”* - Luke 24:41a
Third Sunday of Easter— April 14, 2024

This is such an odd statement. How can they be happy about something they can't believe is happening? Yet, haven't we all experienced that at some point in our lives? Have you ever been so joyously happy and yet at the same time questioned how you could be so lucky? Have you ever received an award you didn't think you deserved and yet accepted it with joy that you were the recipient? Have you ever seen a test result thinking that you surely failed only to discover that you did very well? Everyone can remember a time they have received something with joy but also disbelief.

That's what happened to the disciples after the resurrection. They were so grief-stricken over the death of Jesus that his appearances probably did not make a difference at first. Imagine the conversation that was going on at the beginning of today's Gospel lesson: “You saw Jesus? But He's dead!” “Was it a ghost?” They were probably arguing about what was seen and experienced. Perhaps the witnesses saw someone that looked like Jesus. The witnesses' testimony was rejected because it was ridiculous and downright impossible. One by one they began to see the truth when they witnessed Jesus with their own eyes. One by one they realized that they could no longer ignore the reality: Jesus was alive.

It is no surprise, then, that Jesus' followers were both joyous and disbelieving. After all, this was beyond their understanding. The disciples who had seen Him probably said “See! We told you so!” Yet, even those disciples were probably scared and confused. How do you respond to a physical being that is a man and yet not a man? Even though Jesus had promised that He would be raised from the dead, the disciples never expected this turn of events. They were worried about the future; they were worried about their lives. Jesus was back among them, but how?

The disciples' questions were answered with a simple request from Jesus, “Have you anything here to eat?” He wanted them to know that it was all true. He was alive again. He was different, yet He was the same. In joy as well as in happy disbelief, the disciples shared another meal with their Master.