

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Pastor K. Russell Crouthamel

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If remaining in your car, please tune to 99.3 FM

*Please take time during the prelude to prepare your heart and mind for worship
Indicates Congregational Standing

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

G. F. Handel

WELCOME

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 the font 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.
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.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

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v.1: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head! Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead. Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears; bowing down in joy before him, rising up from grief and tears. **R**

Refrain: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head! Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead.

v.2: Christ is risen! All the sadness of our Lenten fast is over; through the open gates of gladness he returns to life once more; death and hell before him bending see him rise, the victor now; angels on his steps attending, glory round his wounded brow. **R**

v.3: Christ is risen! All the sorrow that last evening round him lay, now has found a glorious morrow in the rising of today. See the grave its first fruits giving, springing up from holy ground. Christ was dead, but now is living; he was lost but he is found. **R**

v.4: Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall. We are Christ's in him forever we have triumphed over all. All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased; hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast. **R**

***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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please join in reading the psalm responsively)

PSALM: Psalm 133

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: John 20: 19 - 31**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John
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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Russ Crouthamel

HYMN OF THE DAY

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

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v.1: That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!

v.2: O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess; to you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.

v.3: O Christ you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival, for you will be our strength and shield from every weapon death can wield.

v.4: All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive! To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.

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 especially **Buddy, Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Charlie, Marie, David, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny, June, Mary Jane, and Charlene.** Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Simple Gifts

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

***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.

***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.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Gathered Into One By The Holy Spirit, Let Us Pray As Jesus Taught Us –

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us into children of God through the resurrection of God's Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God's blessing.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

C: Amen.

P: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

C: Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

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v.1: Good Christian friends rejoice and sing! Now is triumph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!.

v.2: The Lord of life is risen this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away; let al the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v.3: Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v.4: Your name we bless O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

DISMISSAL:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah

G. F. Handel

We welcome everyone to worship on this second Sunday of Easter. Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians. If you would like more information on baptism, Pastor Russ would love to speak with you!

It is our plan to hold worship outdoors in the courtyard and/or parking lot going forward. It is our hope we become adept at making the outdoor services go smoothly. It is our wish that it won't be too long before we can gather indoors again. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

In order to ensure the least possible risk of covid transmission during these courtyard gatherings, we ask that singing only be done by the song leader. Please maintain a safe distance from each other. Masks are required. Thank you for helping us all stay safe and well!

The bulletins are presented by George & Bonnie Long in loving memory of their parents.

If we were worshipping indoors, the altar flowers would have been presented in loving memory of Paul & Grace Grill by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mohr, Jr.

The cemetery has an open position for part-time work. If you are interested, please contact Charlie Schultz at 610-462-8284 or call the church office.

COME AND VISIT

Beginning this week, Pastor Russ will be keeping some of his office time outside in the courtyard. He'll be there, rain or shine, on Mondays from 9-11 AM and on Tuesdays from 1-3 PM. (If it's going to be raining really badly, he'll make sure there's a tent set up.) Come visit, pray together, share Holy Communion with him, or just say hello! Pastor Russ will keep those courtyard office hours at least throughout the summer, and as far into the fall as is possible before it gets too cold. If you'd like to meet with Pastor Russ at another time (whether indoors or outside), send him an email at pastor@stmarkspennsburg.com.

MEETINGS COMING UP:

April 13th: Outreach Committee – 6:30PM

April 16th: Outreach Virtual Pizza Night – 6PM

April 20th: Worship Committee Meeting – 6:30PM

The Outreach Committee is planning to hold a virtual pizza night! We will all be making pizza! Doesn't that sound delicious. There will also be games to participate in while we all wait for the pizza to bake.. The master chefs will be Donna & Jeff Ney. The ingredient list and zoom link will be on the Remarks & Reminders this week.. If you are not receiving the weekly Remarks & Reminders, please contact the church office with your email address.

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Buddy Allen, Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Marilyn Donis, Randy Dotter, Andrew Erb, Renae Fosbenner, Charlie Greulich, Marie Grubb, David Haines, Harold Hieter, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Steve Law, Barbara Lehmann, Pat Matthews, Kenneth Miller, Deb Mullen, Barbara Opachinski, Lenny Rafalko, June Reigner, Mary Jane Schaeffer and Charlene Wilson.

Please call the church office with any changes.

Preparing for next week:

Monday: Psalm 135; Daniel 3:1-30; 1 John 2: 3-11
Tuesday: Daniel 6: 1-28; 1 John 2: 12-17
Wednesday: Isaiah 26: 1-15; Mark 12: 18-27
Thursday: Psalm 4; Daniel 9: 1-19; 1 John 2:18-25
Friday: 1 John 2: 26-28; Daniel 10: 2-19
Saturday: Luke 22: 24-30; Acts 3: 1-10

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