

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Thomas had missed out. He wasn't there with the other disciples when the risen Jesus appeared that first Easter night to show them His hands and side. Thomas was absent when Jesus breathed on them with His Spirit and sent them out to proclaim His forgiveness. It's no wonder then that when Thomas heard about this encounter, he wanted to see Jesus for himself. "Unless I see, . . . I will never believe," he said (John 20:25). One week after Christ's resurrection, Thomas had his opportunity. He saw. He touched. He believed. He confessed: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Today is your opportunity—don't miss out! Our risen Jesus is here with His Spirit and in His body and blood. We see. We touch. We believe. We confess. As we gather in His presence for worship today, may He fill us with great joy as we continue to celebrate His resurrection victory and confess Him as our Lord and God!

HYMN "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" WOV 671

Chorus: Alleluia alleluia

Give thanks to the Risen Lord

Alleluia alleluia

Give praise to His Name

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth

He is the King of creation *Chorus*

2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth

Jesus has died and has risen *Chorus*

3. We have been crucified with Christ

Now we shall live forever *Chorus*

4. God has proclaimed the just reward

Life for all people alleluia *Chorus*

5. Come let us praise the Living God

Joyfully sing to our Savior *Chorus*

CCLI Song # 32376

Donald E. Fishel

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6; 1 Peter 2:2–3*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ has risen from the dead.

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands.

People: He has put all things under His feet.

Pastor: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,

People: that by it we may grow up to salvation, having tasted that the Lord is good.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord ☩ be with you.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Jesus, Name Above All Names” -Naida Hearn

1. Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

2. Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

3. Praise him Lord above all lords
King above all kings God's only Son
The Prince of Peace who by his Spirit
Comes to live in us Master and Friend

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BELL CHOIR “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” -Robert James Lamb

FIRST READING *Acts 5:12–20* (The apostles testify publicly as witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection.) Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13* (All things join in praising the Lord.)

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!

People: Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!

Pastor: Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars!

People: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded and they were created.

People: And He established them forever and ever; He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Pastor: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

People: fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling His word!

Pastor: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

People: Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.

Pastor: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.

Pastor: He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints,

People: for the people of Israel who are near to Him. Praise the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE *Revelation 1:4–18* (Jesus is alive forevermore.) John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow.

His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

Pastor: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Thomas sees, touches, believes, and confesses the risen Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Crown Him with Many Crowns" *LSB 525*

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
 All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
 Through all eternity.

2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
 The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
 Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,

Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.
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SERMON “Who Is Doubting Thomas? Who Are You?” John 20:24-29; 11:1-16; 14:1-6

I. How are you defined?

- What other character(s) in Scripture are defined with negative adjectives?
- What is Thomas' defining moment?

II. Thomas' other moments (11:1-16; 14:1-16; 20:28)

- What disciple wants to courageously go with Jesus in John 11?
- What disciple wants to be where Jesus is in John 14?
- What disciple gives the greatest confession of Jesus in the Gospel of John?
- What is Thomas known for?

III. Thomas' other name and identity (20:24-29)

- What adjectives are stuck to you?
- Ultimately, who is Thomas? You?

One of my favorite writers points out this humorous, but sad reality. He says, “One of the sweetest gifts you can give humanity is to commit an infamous act. It doesn't even have to be mind-bogglingly evil. We'll settle for a run-of-the-mill variety of sin. It just needs to be documented, well-known, and simple.” Think OJ Simpson, John Wilkes Booth, Tonya Harding, Benedict Arnold, or Marcus Brutus. He continues, “Infamy is a sweet gift not simply because we relish scandal, nor because we would rather hear evil about our neighbor than good. No, such acts are especially cherished because they allow us the opportunity to hone one of our favorite

crafts: to shrink a 300-page life story down to a single paragraph that narrates what happened on one day, at a certain hour, and in a certain location. We can whittle an entire biography, an entire life, down to a single tweet, a single action, a single mistake, a single word.” He’s right, isn’t he? Sadly, many people can be defined this way, seen this way, remembered this way, and are. Don’t believe me? Just ask Thomas, I mean, Doubting Thomas.

If you were to search the pages of Scripture, if you were to go from Genesis to Revelation, could you find another biblical character who is defined with an unfavorable adjective, or descriptor, like that? For example, we don’t call these people “Murdering Cain,” “Incestuous Lot,” “Idol-making Aaron,” “Denying Peter,” or “Persecuting Paul.” There is not “Noah the Drunk,” “Moses the Stutterer,” “Jeremiah the Complainer,” or “Mark the Quitter.” There isn’t even “Betraying Judas!” These other men have given us the sweet gift of infamy, but they have been spared the title to go along with them. But Thomas is different. He gets the adjective, and adjectives can be a dreadful thing, can’t they?

For us, Thomas’ defining moment is after that first Easter evening, when he famously says, **“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”** Even though he has the witness of friends and the predictions of Jesus, he will not believe *until* he gets the physical proof. As a disciple of Jesus, this is his defining moment, which is a tragedy. It is quite unfair, and cruel. This isn’t the only story that Thomas has a part to play in.

The first time we meet Thomas in John’s Gospel is in chapter 11. There, Jesus gets word from Mary and Martha that Lazarus is sick, and not doing well. Jesus is not concerned since He knows that this illness will not lead to death, but that God will be glorified through it. After He tarries and dawdles for another two days, He decides to go to Judea to help His beloved friends. However, the disciples are not on board with this. They say, **“Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?”** They think it is a bad and crazy idea. They are surprised Jesus cannot remember the Jews are seeking to kill Him. The danger is real!

But, to add to the confusion and challenge of the moment, Jesus says, “Lazarus has fallen asleep, and I’m going to wake him.” And you have to feel a little bad for Jesus with what happens next. The disciples say, “Great! That is a good thing. If he rests, he will get better.” Not getting the euphemism, Jesus plainly says, **“Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”**

It appears, though, as if one person in this conversation already did believe. Without a shred of a doubt, without displaying an ounce of fear, in firm and full confidence of faith, one disciple speaks. It’s not Peter, nor is it John. It is Thomas! He says, **“Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”** Did you know it was Thomas who said that? Did you know he has a few speaking lines throughout the book? Now, there is a man with a backbone. There is a man with courage, conviction, and confidence. Thomas looks death in the face and chooses death *with Jesus* than life *without Him*. The love of Christ puts divine courage into the heart of the most timid Christians. It is as if Thomas said, “Come on, guys, don’t be scared. Look, if Jesus is going, I’m going. If He gets hurt, I get hurt. Let’s go, brothers, that we may die with our Lord.”

Another event with Thomas comes a few chapters later. In John 14, Thomas shows his love and devotion to Jesus, even though he is slow to understand and comprehend. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus encourages His disciples to believe in Him and the Father. He comforts them by saying that there are many rooms in His Father’s house, and that He is going to prepare a place for them. Jesus even assures them they know the way.

Thomas, though, isn’t so sure. He is concerned that they don’t. He has never been to this place, or Jesus’ Father’s house. He wants to be with Jesus, and to make sure he isn’t separated from him. He says, **“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”** Jesus tells him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”** Everything of God has its source in me, and is reached through me. You can only approach God through me. All that is real and true is found in me. I am the source of physical and spiritual life. To know me is to know God. Thomas wants to be with Jesus.

The next appearance is right after his claim to fame. When Thomas finally sees the Risen Christ, He gives the greatest confession in John, and one better than any of the disciples give in any of the Gospels! He climatically says, **“My Lord and My God!”**

But, despite these other events, no one has dubbed him “Confessing Thomas,” “Courageous Thomas,” “Believing Thomas,” “Loyal and Devoted Thomas,” or, even, “Slow to believe Thomas!” He is doubting Thomas. Why is that? We gravitate towards the negative, the infamous, and the scandalous. A disciple who doubts Jesus? Can’t beat that. Doubting Thomas. Adjectives can be a dreadful thing.

What adjective or descriptor might people stick to you? What descriptor might be prefaced to your name? Is it lying, greedy, slanderous, or violent? How about addict, adulterer, loser, failure, or mean? Could it be know-it-all, hypocrite, proud, or selfish?

What might you stick to others? What prefaced the name of a little sister, or older brother? What about a parent, estranged relative, eccentric neighbor, or trying co-worker? Are you the type that tacks a preface in front of your own name? Do you self-identify by the skeletons hidden in your closet, or do you dew onto your own clothing the scarlet letter of secret shame. What about Satan? His name means *accuser*. What does He accuse you of before God, and in your heart? Maybe Doubting Thomas isn’t the only one with an adjective before their name. We do, too. We all at least have this one: sinner. Adjectives can be a dreadful thing.

But, let me tell you who Thomas really is. He is neither Doubting Thomas or Believing Thomas. He is Thomas. Regular, plain-old Thomas. And more than that, he is Thomas, the son of our Father in heaven, and brother of our Lord Jesus. When Jesus appears to him, He doesn’t identify Thomas by his doubt or his faith, his bad works or his good works, his virtues or his vices. He speaks peace. Jesus identifies Thomas by his union with Christ. Adjective is gone!

And Jesus does the same with us. We have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God. It is no longer we who live, but Christ Who lives in us. Theologian Chad Bird beautifully says, “Who we are is subsumed into the biography of our Redeemer. The Spirit, with quill in hand, rewrites our life stories in the crimson link of Christ’s atoning blood.” He is our Lord Who has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sin and evil with His precious blood. He is our God Who is eternal, all-powerful, and all-knowing, and Who holds the keys of death and hades. Christ is Risen! He speaks and bestows His peace that makes us right with God and sustains us in every trouble.

All of us are more complicated than the singular narrative that people might try to identify us by. We have done bad things, good things, and a mix of both. Most people will remember the bad, and you know what, let them. We have a God Who remembers only the good. And the good He remembers is the good that Christ has done for us, in us, and through us.

And so, who are we? I am Nick, the child of God. We are all children of God, children of our Father, beloved citizens of His Kingdom, each birthed anew and bathed a fresh in the waters of grace, in the waters of baptism. If you want to reduce our life story down to one adjective, one word, then try these: Beloved, Forgiven, Redeemed, Christ’s. There’s a new adjective for Doubting Thomas, no, Thomas, right, and you, in Jesus. Adjectives aren’t always a dreadful thing.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING based on Acts 5:30–32

Pastor: God of our fathers, You have filled our hearts with endless joy in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. You raised Your Son from the dead after evil men killed Him by hanging Him on the tree of the cross. You exalted Him to Your right hand as leader and Savior to give repentance and forgiveness of sins to all who trust in Him. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we join with those who were eyewitnesses of these things to give You all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “I Am the Bread of Life” WOV 702

(We do not have permission to reprint this song. Please use the song book if possible.)

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Here, O Lord, in the true body and blood of Your Son, we have seen You face-to-face and touched the same Savior who showed His hands and side to Thomas and the other disciples. Grant that we who have believed in our crucified Savior may confess with great boldness to the power of His resurrection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" *WOV 754*

1. Let us talents and tongues employ

Reaching out with a shout of joy

Bread is broken, the wine is poured

Christ is spoken and seen and heard

Chorus: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again

Pass the word around, loaves abound

2. Christ is able to make us one

At the table He sets the tone

Teaching people to live to bless

Love in word and in deed express

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out

Bearing fruit in a world of doubt

Gives us love to tell, bread to share

God, Immanuel, everywhere

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *John 20:19* – “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ ” Fear is the opposite of faith. That is, the kind of cringing fear we have in the face of something that is hostile to us and more powerful than we are. Jesus spends a lot of His time telling the disciples to not be afraid. Our fears constantly hem us in and prevent us from following the Lord’s will. But there is no need to fear. Jesus has conquered. No fear can keep us locked up. We have been set free by Jesus for lives that declare His marvelous deeds.

THANK YOU to everyone for the generous donations to the Federwitz Moving Fund. A total of \$574.00 was given for the fund. Your generosity is much appreciated.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Do you have any updates to your contact information? New address directories will be printed in May, so please let Maria know if you have any updates.

EMMAUS GENERATIONS: Please join us for our rescheduled “Foods of the Bible” event on Tuesday, April 26 at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you there!

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS: It is time to renew (or begin) your subscriptions to *The Lutheran Witness*. Cost for the year is \$19.68 per subscription per year beginning August 2022. Renewals must be to the office by May 15. Checks should be made out to Emmaus.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER: Visitors, if you would like to receive the *Emmaus Footprints* (our monthly newsletter), please leave a note with your email address for Maria in the office. Members, please make sure we have your current email address.

JEENA’S BUSINESS is now open! You can visit Namaste Brows & Boutique at 1718B Lexington Ave N in Roseville. Brochures are available in the office. www.namastebrowsandboutique.com

“BRIGHT STAR,” an engaging Broadway production, will be presented at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 4101 Washington St NE, Columbia Hts, MN on April 18 – May 1 and May 5-8 (Thursday-Saturday evening performances at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.). Reserved tickets are \$10 and proceeds will benefit the church’s theater ministry. Please call 763-788-9427 or email carol.blase@juno.com to reserve your tickets.

CONCERT AT JEHOVAH: Jehovah Lutheran Church welcomes Singers in Accord, under the direction of Dr. David L. Mennicke of Concordia University, St. Paul, to perform two Spring concerts, “Earthsongs,” on Saturday, April 30 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 1 at 5 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The hour-long concert shares music from around the world, including compositions and arrangements representing Native Americans, the Middle East, Latin America, South Africa, Asia, and African Americans. It is noteworthy that the majority of the composers/arrangers are from under-represented populations, lending insight and authenticity to the pieces. General admission tickets are \$15. Masks are required.

ASCENSION SERVICE: Come join us! On May 25th at 6:30 p.m., Emmaus and Jehovah will be having a joint worship service to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. The service will be at Jehovah Lutheran Church and is open to all. Come check out this special service.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Three C’s of Christian Witness” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Competence, Conversation, and Caring-the three C’s of Christian witness. (Daniel 3:28)

HELP AT YOUR DOOR

Do you know a senior who could use some help? For thirty-seven years, the nonprofit Help At Your Door has helped older adults in the seven-county Twin Cities area maintain their independence and continue living in their homes by providing essential services. Ordering and bringing groceries, basic home help (chores and light repairs), and even rides to and from appointments or social events are some of the resources that are available.

Are you looking for ways to give back to your community? Help At Your Door offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, including grocery shopping and delivery, providing transportation, and helping clients with tasks at home. Volunteers enjoy flexible scheduling, social interaction with a welcoming community, and most of all, hands on activities.

If you are interested in requesting a service or learning more, visit:
helpatyourdoor.org | 651-642-1892.