

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

Theme: In the face of doubt, Christ gives us proof and peace. To the doubting disciples, he gave certain proof that led to certain peace. Through his Word and sacraments, Jesus gives the same proof to all people of all time. “Peace be with you,” said our Lord. Then he sent his people forth with this message of peace based on the proof of his resurrection.

Our Worship Service

HYMNS YOU MAY WISH TO SING 145 “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”
156 “Awake, My Heart, With Gladness” 431 “I Walk In Danger All The Way”

PRAYER OF THE DAY O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 2:14A, 22-32 Jesus told Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Yet, Jesus let them see and touch because they weren’t just looking for themselves. No, these eleven would be the witnesses of the bodily resurrection of Christ for all ages. Through the eyes of these eleven men, God gives his Church the gift of proof and the gift of peace.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 16 CW Page 68 (Or read in your Bible)

SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 1:3-9 What brings more doubt into our lives than grief or sorrow? “Why did this happen to me?” “How could God let my loved one die?” “When will this sickness stop?” Grief and sorrow raise doubts about God’s love and God’s plan for our lives. Peter points us to the resurrection as proof of the living hope we have regardless of our outward circumstances. When we face trials, the Lord uses them to strengthen our faith. Faith clings to a Savior we have not seen, but love. The risen Savior gives us his inexpressible joy even in the face of fears and doubts.

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20:29b)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31 Peace was one thing the disciples did not have. They had no peace that Easter evening as they huddled behind locked doors. Jesus was dead—killed on a Roman cross—and now fear held them in its icy grip. Guilt weighed down their hearts, too. But then Jesus came to bring them peace! He offered proof that he was alive and sin was paid for. Jesus showed them his nail-marked hands and riven side. Thomas missed the first appearance to the disciples and refused to believe without evidence. What grace we see in Jesus! He comes again for Thomas’ sake and reminds us, “Faith is being sure of what we do not see.” We find our peace in the risen Savior!

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles Creed, CW Page 19

SERMON (If you have an internet connection, connect to a WELS service at the Websites list BELOW.)
(If you are unable to access the internet, we can send copies of sermons.)

Risen Savior, McFarland	www.risensaviorlutheran.org
Resurrection, Verona/Monroe	www.rlcverona.org
St Matthews, Janesville	www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

The Lord’s Prayer CW Page 20

Benediction The Lord Bless You and Keep You.
The Lord Make His Face Shine on You and be Gracious to You.
The Lord Look on You with Favor and Give You Peace.

Introduction – A **second mailing** will be sent to all members/prospects (next week) who do not have internet access to include sermons, services, announcements and information related to church council action. *If you have a good internet connection and are able to download services and sermons, please let us know so we can exclude you from the regular mailings.*

Welcome to Our Worship Because of the Corona Virus restrictions there will be no regular gatherings for worship services until the ban is lifted. **However, pastor will be at the church from 10:00 AM until noon on Sundays.** Bulletins, printed sermons, and Private Communion will be available at that time. May the message of our Risen Lord's never failing love bring you the peace and joy that is to be found in Him alone.

Worship Opportunities/Sermon & Services - The following WELS area churches will have sermons and brief services available online for Sunday worship. **If you have internet connections you can access their web sites** - services will be prerecorded so that you can access them at our normal worship times.

Risen Savior, McFarland
Resurrection, Verona/Monroe
St Matthews, Janesville

www.risensaviorlutheran.org
www.rlcverona.org
www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

Large Print Bulletin/Sermons Large print copies of the bulletin are available. Please, let us know if you would like the large print version.

Prayer Requests Please, remember in your prayers those in our congregation who are experiencing:

Death in the Family; Those In Care Facilities – NO VISITATION PERMITTED;

Shut-ins in self-quarantine; Those With Compromised Health Phone calls also would be nice!

Please bring any personal or family prayer requests to the attention of Pastor Hellwig, particularly if a family member, friend, or member of the congregation is entering the hospital.

Sunday School and Catechism Instruction – At the present time, both are being offered remotely. A new series of Sunday School lessons (through May) has been sent to each family and pastor is sending catechism lessons to our catechism students on a weekly basis.

Holy Communion - Pastor Hellwig will continue to be available to offer private spiritual counsel and private communion upon request - either at church or at members' homes. Please call in advance.

Hardship - If you are experiencing any unusual hardship related to Covid 19 (or other situation) please don't hesitate to let Pastor Hellwig or any church council member know (We can't help if we don't know.)

Serving You

(608)577-4825 (cell phone/text)

Pastor Glen Hellwig

Email: glen.hellwig60@gmail.com

Vacancy Pastor

The Readings

Second Sunday of Easter---Series A

First Lesson – Acts 2:14a,22-32

14Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say...

22"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25David said about him: " 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, 27because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 28You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' 29"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

Second Lesson – I Peter 1:3-9

3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 5who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Lesson – John 20:19-31

19On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." 24Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." 30Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.