**All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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## Sunday, April 07, 2024

## Second Sunday of Easter

## *You are absolutely invited into this sacred space.  We welcome all who are seeking God’s love and grace.  All Saints recognizes that we are all unique and beloved children of God.  We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has given us.  We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.  We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, ability, age, or culture. We are committed to working towards anti-racism in ourselves and our community. We affirm the sacredness of all those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.  We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ’s teaching to love one another as God loves us.  We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together, we will experience God’s presence in new and real ways.*

*The offering plate is by the main door to the sanctuary for your convenience.*

*We practice open communion at All Saints Lutheran Church. What does that mean? It means that if you believe and trust that Christ offers his body and blood For You, you are welcome at the table. At All Saints, we believe that Christ invites all people to the feast. “Come to the banquet for all is now ready.”*

***\*\*Stand as you are comfortable***

***Prelude***

***Announcements***

**\*\**Thanksgiving for Baptism***

Blessed be the Holy Trinity: the God who creates us and all that exists, the Risen One + in whom we are set free from sin, and the Spirit who strengthens and enlightens us with her gifts.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We are joined to Christ in the waters of our baptism, made part of God’s holy family that extends to every time and every place. Through our baptisms, we are given new birth each day, and through the Word and the Meal we receive new life in abundance.

Let us give thanks for the saving gift of our baptism.

**Holy God, in our baptism you reached out your saving hand to give to us the gift of new life in you. You are the river of life, the source of all renewal and all joy.**

We are blessed by your gift of holy water: oceans and lakes, rivers and streams.

**We are blessed by your gift of the holy water which cleans and sustains our bodies.**

We are blessed by your gift of holy water: rain and clouds, puddles and pools.

**We are blessed by your gift of the holy water which nourishes flowerbeds and fields, and sustains all of creation.**

**We thank you for the gift of our holy baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection.**

**Wash away all our sin in your holy water.**

**Empower and encourage us to share the good news of the empty tomb.**

**Help us find the courage to speak and act toward justice for all your children.**

Refresh us and the world through this holy and living water.

Where there is drought, bring rain and renewal.

Where there is doubt and despair, bring hope.

Where war and chaos thrives, bring the promise of peace.

We ask all these things through Christ, the Risen One,

who reigns with you and the Spirit forever.

**Amen.**

***\*\*Entrance Hymn Thine Is the Glory ELW#376***

***\*\*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.**

**\*\*Kyrie ELW#157**

**\*\*Now the Feast and Celebration ELW#167**

***\*\*Prayer of the Day***

**God of all the earth, you have sent us out to be witnesses to your work in the world. Empower us to speak the truth boldly. Help us to remember that we are called to be on your side, to speak and to act as you would have us do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

***Reading:*** **Acts 1:1-14**

1In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, 2from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles—confirmed through many convincing proofs—over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God. 4On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. “Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak,” Jesus said. 5“John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6While meeting together they asked, **“Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”** 7Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. 8You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” 9Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. 10They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. 11“You Galileans—why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you—this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.” 12The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a mere Sabbath’s walk away. 13Entering the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying—Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James ben-Alphaeus; Simon, a member of the Zealot sect; and Judah ben-Jacob. 14Also in their company were some of the women who followed Jesus, his mother Mary, and some of Jesus’ sisters and brothers. With one mind, they devoted themselves to constant prayer.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***\*\*****Gospel Acclamation*

**\*\*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW#172**

*Announcement of the Gospel*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

***Gospel:* Mark 6:7-13**

7Then Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. 8He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. 9They were to wear sandals but, he added, “Do not take a spare tunic.” 10And Jesus said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. 11Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you leave it, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet as a testimony against them.” 12And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. 13They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon "Whose Side Are We On?"**

***Hymn of the Day*  Our Father, We have Wandered ELW#606**

**\*\* Affirmation of Faith – Immigrant’s Creed by Jose Luis Casal**

**I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger. When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God’s kingdom.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers. I believe that the communion of saints begins when we embrace all God’s people in all their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness. I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time. I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

### *\*\*Prayers of Intercession*

**God, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our community and the World you love.**

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain especially Monty, Paul, Linda, Dylan, Matt, Pastor Sarah, Elaine, Becky O, Pete, Niel, Becky (Jean’s neighbor), David, Bob L., Eugene (Carla’s Dad), the people of Baltimore, Haiti, Israel and Palestine. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of learning, we lift up all who teach and all who learn. Thank you for teachers who share their knowledge and wisdom. Bless the students in our midst. Especially we remember Zach, who graduates from high school this year, Kimberly, who is studying in Prague, and Katy, who is studying in Paris. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

**God, we know you hear our prayers and answer them with love and care for us.**

**Amen.**

*\*\** ***Sharing of the Peace***

### *\*\*Offering is brought forward*

### *\*\** *Offertory Response*

### As the Grains of Wheat(Refrain Only) ELW #465

### *\*\*Offertory Prayer*

**Good and loving God, all you have created is good. Help us to be generous with that which you**

**have first given us, so that we can respond to those who hunger in any way. As we gather now at**

**your Table, prepare us to go out and proclaim Christ’s resurrection through what we say and do.**

**Amen.**

**\*\**Dialogue***

The Risen Christ is with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts in joyful praise!

**We lift them up to God in joy!**

We give thanks to God!

**It is good and right to raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving!**

***\*\*Preface:*** As we celebrate Christ’s resurrection from the dead…this hymn of praise:

**\*\*Holy, Holy Holy ELW#191**

***\*\*Words of Institution***

**\*\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Loving God in heaven, hallowed be your Name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the dominion, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

***Invitation to Communion***

### *Communion Hymn O Bread of Life from Heaven* ELW #480

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### *\*\*Sending Song*

### *Praise To You, O God of Mercy ELW#208*

### *\*\*Prayer After Communion*

### Alleluia! We give you thanks, risen Lord, for your life-giving presence among us. You have

### fed and refreshed us with the healing gift of life. Now send us out to share the good news of

### the empty tomb, through all that we say and do. Amen! Alleluia!

### *\*\*Blessing*

### *\*\*Closing Hymn Let the Whole Creation Cry* ELW#876

###  *\*\*Dismissal*

Go in peace. Serve in Love.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

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**Weekly Attendance**

***Week of March 31***

*37*

*Maundy Thursday*

*17*

*Easter Vigil*

*13*

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**Calendar of Events**

***Today***

* ***Blessing of Contributions CSL***
* ***Bach Video-Youth will serve snacks***

***April 09-Creative Friends 1:00 pm***

***April 10-Bells Practice 6:30 pm***

***April 13-Men's Breakfast IHOP 8:00 am***

***April 14-Adult Bible Study***

***April 15-Deadline to File Taxes***

***April 16-Creative Friends 1:00 pm***

***April 17-Council Meeting 6:30 pm Reports to Submit***

***April 20-Newsleter Deadline***

***April 21-Adult Bible Study***

***April 23-Creative Friends 1:00 pm***

***April 24-Bells Practice 6:30 pm***

***April 27-Project Comfort 9:00 am-Noon***

***April 28-Coffee with Council***

***April 30-Creative Friends 1:00 pm***

**Join us for our Annual Auction fundraiser. We will be having a semi-formal event at The Farm & The Odd Fellows, 205 W Second St Minneapolis, KS, while the auction will be held online April 22nd - 27th. Doors open at 6:00p. $50 per couple. $35 for individual. There will be food and drinks available. We can't wait to see you there!**

**CTS Team, #ForTheKids**

*You may recall that there has been an announcement in the bulletin over the past year directing you to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) if you wish to support the people of Ukraine. LIRS has changed its name to Global Refuge and can be found at* ***globalrefuge.org****. Although their name has changed, their mission remains the same: to assist and support refugees in the United States and around the world. Visit their website to see all the ways you can support this important work.*

***Bishop Candea reminds us that as followers of Christ, we are to pray for and support the most vulnerable among us. She pointed out that right now, the most vulnerable people in the world are the women, children, and elderly people living in the Gaza Strip.***

***All members are welcome to attend regularly scheduled council meetings. Additionally, the Council would like to remind you that the most recent Council reports and minutes are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.***

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**BLUE SPRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE** *is very appreciative of your continued support of your neighbor.*

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**Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

1. Whenever we talk about the covenant and what happened with the coming of Jesus, it is important to recognize that Jesus’ resurrection does not replace the covenant. Instead, it expands it to include more people and a variety of ways of worship God. After all, there are still millions of faithful people who worship God and do not believe Jesus is the messiah.
2. Acts is often thought of as the second book of Luke. It is attributed to the same author, and is addressed to the same person as Luke is addressed to: Theophilus, which literally means “lover of God.” How do you see yourself as Theophilus?
3. There is a mention of the disciples returning to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, “a mere Sabbath’s walk away.” I was curious about this, so I looked it up. One of the things prohibited on the Sabbath was walking more than a certain distance, which was somewhere around half to three-fourths of a mile. This is in a time when walking was the main way to get from point A to point B, and so usually longer walks were to reach a destination. This is not a prohibition that makes sense today, when we walk more for leisure or exercise than to get somewhere. But it raises an important point: how do you make room for rest and reverence in your life?
4. Verse 8 of chapter 1 of Acts is the theme of the book. It takes the disciples a long time to finally leave Jerusalem; this happens only when they are threatened and forced to leave, and then they begin to travel to Samaria and beyond, to cities in Greece and Rome to share the good news. Is there an event in your life that has pushed you in some way to be a witness to Jesus’ good news?

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**Birthday**

***April 12 Abigail Benz***

**Greeter**

***April 07 Donna Taylor***

**Usher**

***April 07 Paul Blixrud***

**Altar Guild**

***April 07 Mary Ann Gross***

**Reader**

***April 07 Betsy Reese***

**Tech**

***April 07 Gary & Zach Antes***

**Prayer Requests**

***Monty Health Concerns (May 15)***

*Paul Health Concerns (May 31)*

*Linda Health Concerns (May 16)*

*Dylan Military Service (September 06)*

*Pastor Sarah Health Concerns (October 03)*

*Matt Health Concerns (November 06)*

*Elaine Health Concerns (January 23)*

*Becky O Health Concerns (January 29)*

*Pete Health Concerns (February 05)*

*Becky (Jean’s neighbor) Health Concerns (March 06)*

*David Health Concerns (March 23)*

*Bob L. Health Concerns (April 1)*

*Eugene (Carla’s Dad) Health Concerns (April 4)*

***Please pray for the people of Baltimore, Maryland.***

***Please pray for the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.***

***Please pray for the Homeless.***

***We remember all of the children and adults who are engaged in learning, as well as their teachers, instructors and professors. Please bless their partnerships in instruction so that they all are supported in the learning process. We lift up especially Zach, who is graduating from high school in May, and Katy and Kimberly who are studying abroad in Paris and Prague this semester.***