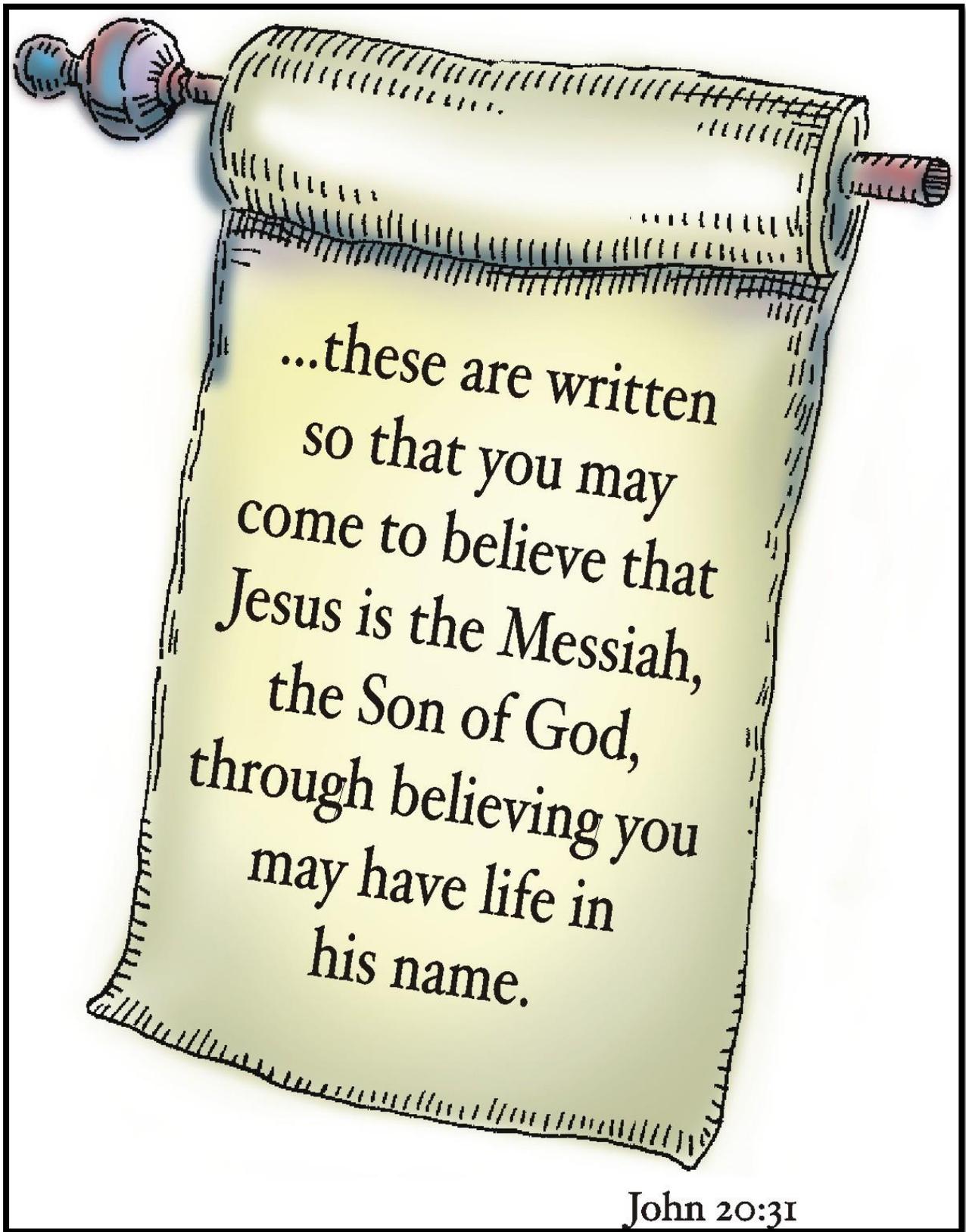


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



John 20:31

Pentecost 25

November 14, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Pastors

(#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@wctatel.net)

(#590-0727 – cell; email baldwins@wctatel.net)

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Pentecost 25

November 14, 2021

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.

EMPOWER AND SEND US!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

***CONFESSION**

Among the disciples, Jesus stood,

“Peace be with you”, Jesus said.

Here among us, Jesus stands,

“Peace be with you”, Jesus says.

On the disciples, Jesus breathed,

“The Holy Spirit receive”

Also on us, Jesus breathes,

“The Holy Spirit receive”.

We worship you, O God, aware that we are a group of people at differing stages in our journeys of faith.

Our knowledge of you has been shaped by diverse experiences, teachings and relationships throughout our lives.

At times, we move between faith and doubt, certainty and unbelief.

So today, we rejoice in the word of the gospel where John declares that he has written his gospel to confirm and strengthen our belief that Jesus is the Christ - the Son of God, and that in believing, we might have life in his name.

We worship you, O God, with praise and thanksgiving for that gift of life made possible through Jesus’ costly death and victorious resurrection.

Strengthen and confirm our belief in Jesus in this time of worship here today.

May we know the blessings of his peace within us and the breath of his Spirit upon us.

We offer this prayer and our worship in Jesus’ name and for his sake.

Amen

When we acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord and God, true Christian fellowship exists. One of the major marks of this fellowship is the sense of joy we experience as we gather to worship God, to give thanks for Jesus Christ and to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Yet, we confess that there are times

when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely; when our lives seem bereft of God's presence; desolate times when faith leads to doubt and questions, rather than a sense of joy or peace of mind. Lord Jesus Christ, unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch you or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair.

Forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of Easter hard to believe.

(silent reflection)

Come to us, risen Christ. Come through the closed doors of our hearts and minds and take away our fears and doubts.

Come to us, risen Christ. Breathe on us and fill us with the joy and peace of your presence.

Bless us as all as people who have not seen you but who want to believe that you are truly the risen Christ, Son of God.

Amen

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Hear the good news: "Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and ruler of the kings on earth...loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood.

To him be the glory and dominion for ever and ever."

***OPENING SONG**

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

131

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 griefs and tears.

Refrain Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Risen our victorious head!

Sing his praises! Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ is risen! All the sadness

of our Lenten fast is o'er;

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. Refrain

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 firstfruits giving,

springing up from holy ground;

he was dead, but now is living;

he was lost, but he is found. Refrain

Christ is risen! Henceforth never

*death or hell shall us enthrall;
be we 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. Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Glory to God..."



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



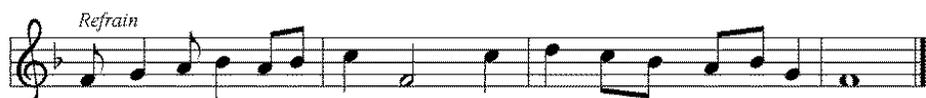
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴John 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, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sing thru 2 times

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
 Hal - le - lu - jah.
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

***GOSPEL READING**

John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O 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.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

*Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.*

*Jesus lives! Why do you weep?
Why that sad and mournful sigh?
He who died our brother here
lives our brother still on high,
lives forever to bestow
blessings on his church below.*

*Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,
life eternal waits for you;
joined to him, your living head,
where he is, you shall be too;
with the Lord, at his right hand,
as a victor you shall stand.*

*Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise him in a nobler song,
cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the victor king, whose sway
sin and death and hell obey.*

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

...God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG**

“Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing”

vss. 1-4 # 363

*Christ is alive! Let Christians Sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. In death his love shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound To distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now And conquer ev'ry place and time.*

*Not throned afar, remotely high, Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior with the Father reigns.*

*In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
He suffers still, yet loves the more, And lives, though ever crucified.*

Text: Vrian A. Wren. B. 1936 Tune: T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica 1789

***THE DISMISSAL**

He is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed! Thanks be to God.

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20852.*

Wounded Healer

The Sunday after Easter can feel a little bit like a crash, a return to normalcy after a day of unmatched celebration. And yet this is where we live most of our lives: not in celebration, but struggling to make ends meet, doing our best to love our imperfect partners and kids, holding on to our faith in humanity when people do terrible things, and dealing with our own kinds of adversity, hurt, and loss. This is why we need to hear from the one who missed everything, the one who still has a lot of questions, the one who is not afraid to open up about his own doubt and fear.

It's revealing that the one thing Thomas asks to see is Jesus' scars. He is not looking for another miracle or celebration. His connection to Jesus is through his humanity, through his suffering, through the things that Thomas could identify with and understand.

Very often when we are at a crossroads of being trapped in our grief, depression, or anger on the one hand and the possibility of moving through on the other, the only person we can really trust is someone who has been there before, someone who has walked the road we are traveling and lived to tell about it.

That's why Christ stands among us today not as one who has finally escaped our humanity but as one who is still identified by those marks of love and sacrifice. We see in his wounds a reflection of our own pain. When we gather at the table to see and touch for ourselves, we know that the risen life he extends to us is real. No matter how many times we missed it the first time, Jesus reaches out to include us in the promise of Easter: "Here is my body, here is my blood. Do not doubt, but believe."

And we, for the first or the thousandth time, reply, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.