



Alter Copy

Sunday, April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter
Zion Lutheran Church
230 Cemetery Road
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West Jefferson, Ohio 43162
614 879-8107
Jon Meister, Presider
www.zionlutheranwj.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION

Please stand as you are able.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, and blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C **Amen**

P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

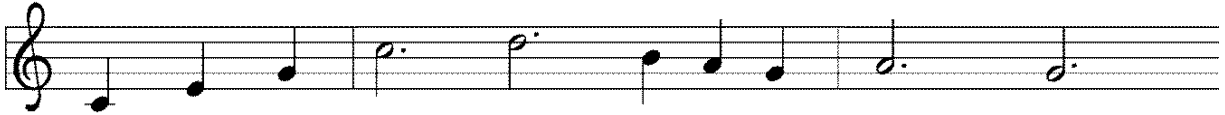
Silence for reflection

- P** God of Grace and Glory,
C **you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.**
- P** God who is rich in mercy, love us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. In the name of Jesus Christ who loves us and **+** frees us from our sins by his blood. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!
- C** **Amen.**

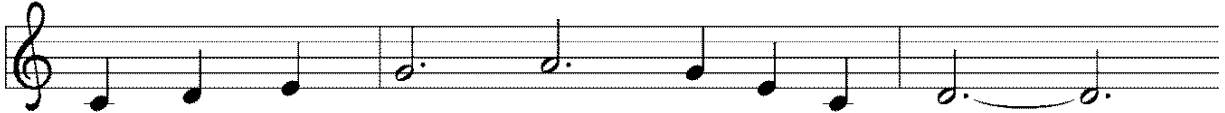


GATHERING HYMN: (ELW 556)

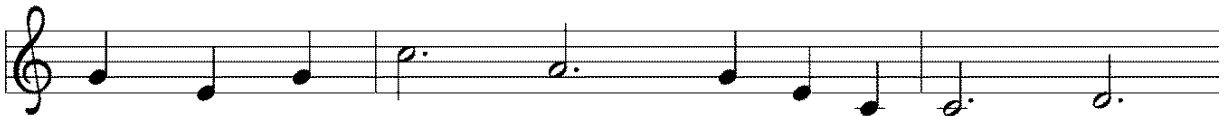
Morning Has Broken



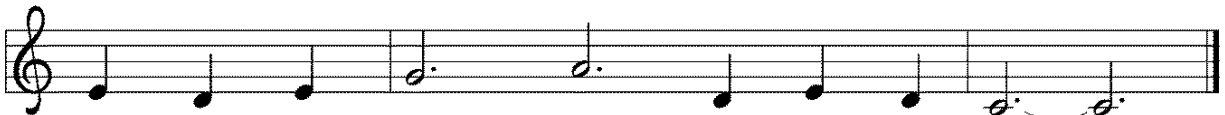
1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

RESPONSIVE READING

- P** For peace in the World, for the health of the Church, for the unity of all,
C **for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,**
- P** That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,
C **that we may live out truth and justice and grace,**
- P** for peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family,
C **for life and for love, for work and our play,**
- P** for your Spirit to guide, that you center our lives in the water and the Word,
C **that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord.**

THIS IS THE FEAST



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of the resurrection of our Lord. 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 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 4: 32-35

Please be seated.

L A reading from Acts.

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 133*Read responsively.*¹Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!²**It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,**
³upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.⁴**It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.**⁵For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: life forevermore.*How good and pleasant it is when
brothers live together in unity!**Psalm 133:1***SECOND READING: 1st Peter 1: 3-9**

Peter shows us an appropriate response to God's great mercy to us: praise. Specifically, he blesses God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is one being, in three persons. Peter's letter will reveal some of the distinctions between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this case, he praises the Father while acknowledging Christ as our Lord.

L A reading from 1st Peter.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Please stand as you are able.*


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 20: 19-31**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The story of Easter continues as the risen Lord 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON***Please be seated*

HYMN OF THE DAY: (ELW 366)

Please stand as you are able. Sing only verses 1, 4, and 5.

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909

Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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APOSTLES' CREED

A Join me in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.
C 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 INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the Church, the World, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life.
God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our creator, you bring forth all life on Earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our Savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people.
God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty especially Michael, Niki, Aurora, and all of those we hold in our hearts. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry of spreading your word to others. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died especially Donna Green. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

SHALOM

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THANKS

P Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the World, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(Preface is in the pocket of the Pastor's binder.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EASTER EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the Earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying World. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

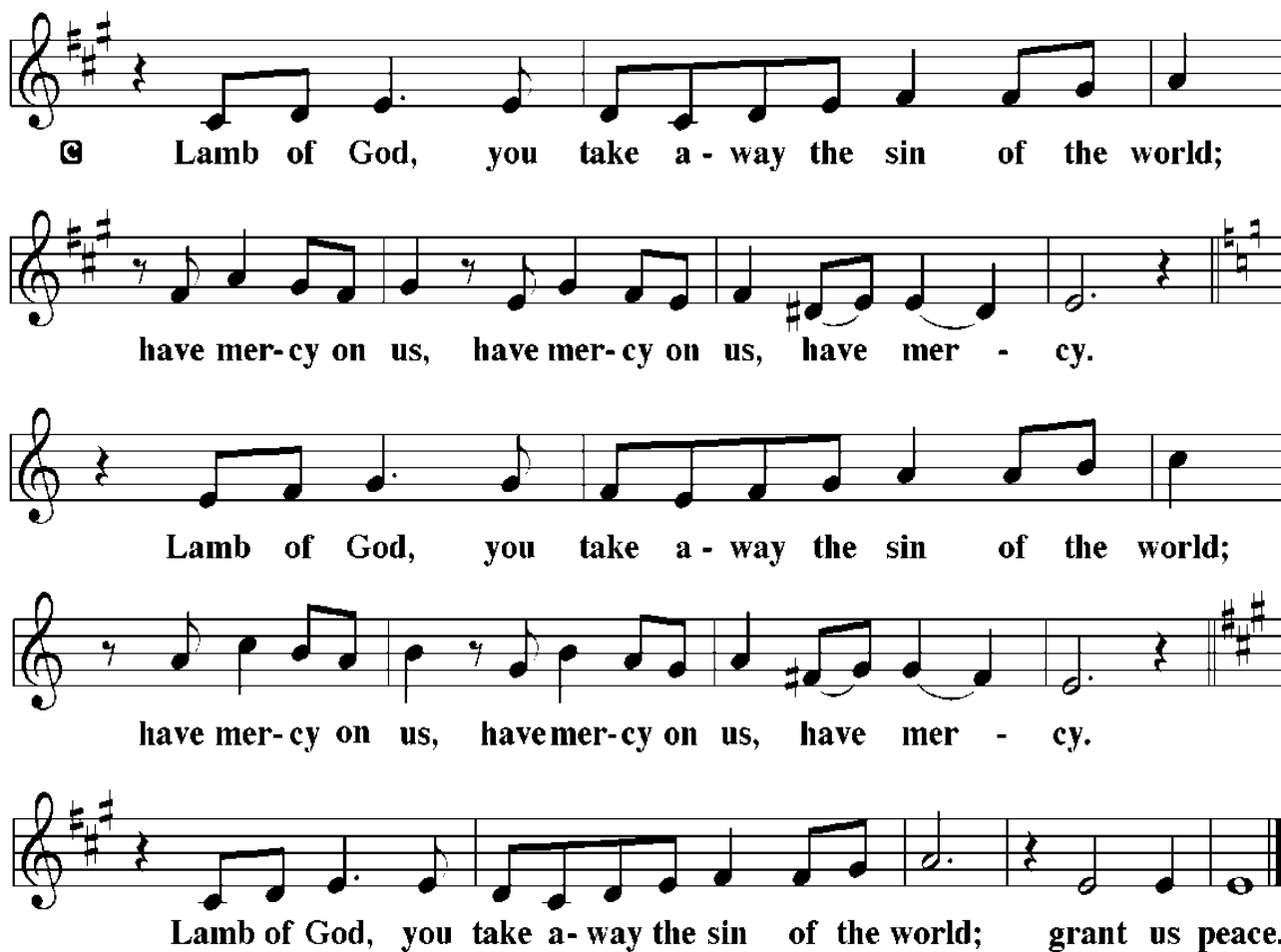
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray the prayer you taught us:

C **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

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION HYMN



C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Let us pray. Shepherd God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
C Amen

BLESSING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
 ✚ bless you now and always.
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)

God Be with You Till We Meet Again



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU. William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!** *We go out - Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's love. Amen!* (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)

POSTLUDE

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Serving during worship this morning:

Presider: Jon Meister

Lector:

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

Food fund donations:

Serving during worship next week:**Presider:** Jon Meister**Lector:****Musician(s):** Jerry Gossett**Food fund donations:****ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We welcome our guests and visitors this morning. Please take a moment to speak with Jon, Jerry, or Louise before you leave. All Baptized persons, at Christ's invitation, are welcome to commune. Worshippers who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine will find white grape juice available in the tray of communion cups. Please come forward using the left aisle and return to your seats using the right aisle.

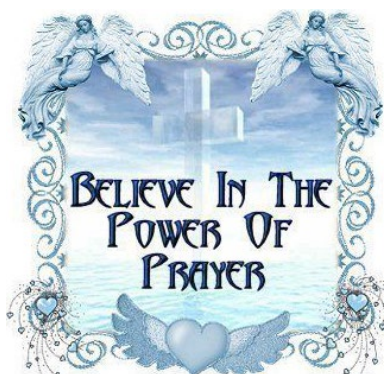
CONTACT THE PASTOR

Communications requesting pastoral care should be made directly to Pastor Larry Baker, (614) 257-8560.

COMING EVENTS AT ZION

SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH We have Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at 9:45 each week. We are going to be reading a book by C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* and discussing it. Please come and join our lively discussion. Bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you, if you can.

FINDING US ON THE INTERNET Some of you may know that the church has a wonderful website that was designed by Susie Taylor. She does a wonderful job updating it every week. Susie also has her own page on Facebook that I have referred to on several occasions. There are many items on her site that are great for thoughts of the day. It is *Stix-N-Stonez*. Check it out. However a new blogger on the scene is Alex Meister. Find him at "christianameister.wixsite.com/blog". Alex has posted many of his essays on different topics relating to Christianity. Some we have discussed in our Sunday Bible Studies. I invite you to check out both of these Facebook sites. Then come to Bible Study and discuss your feelings.

PRAYERS

Please continue to keep Aurora and her parents and Grandma in your prayers. (Possibly the best way to reach Aurora and her family is through Margret, 8461 Silverbell Ave., Galloway, 43119.)

We are also praying for Nicole Biler Robinette, (Tim's daughter). She is on the transplant list for a new heart. We pray that this will happen soon. She is currently at home but will be called back to the hospital soon until an organ becomes available. Tim says that she is in good spirits. Keep her; her husband, Stephen; and her parents and family in your prayers.

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Michael Koch; Wesley and JoAnn Porter; Mike and Donna Toy, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick, especially Arlene Castor.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. Michael has moved to *The Grove*, a facility that is much closer to his home. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid Keep all of the Koch's in your prayers.

If you hear or know of anyone who should be on our Prayer List, please let me know, my number is 614-398-6302

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW, AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, THE MAGAZINES HAVE ARTICLES ASKING IF JESUS REALLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD?

YEAH, I THINK IT'S GREAT!

CHRISTIANITY IS SO *DEEPLY ROOTED* IN HISTORY. THIS SORT OF DEBATE ISN'T EVEN *RELEVANT* TO MOST RELIGIONS.

ST. THOMAS: PATRON SAINT OF SPECULATIVE JOURNALISM.



Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Through Lent, we have prayed, “Jesus, teach us your ways.” On this Resurrection Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection, we pray:

Jesus, teach us to die
to the sinful ways of this world,
so that we might walk in newness of life.

Jesus, teach us to live
trusting the paths you set out before us,
so that we might be your hands and feet
sharing your love with this broken world.

In Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen

Blessings this Easter from the staff of Bread for the World!

Pray With Us



Southern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Many of us have been eagerly and anxiously watching weather forecasts for this afternoon. As our staff met this morning, we held everyone in the path of today's storms in prayer. I invite you to join us in prayer, as well:

God of tempest and whirlwind,

send your presence to those are in the path of today's storms. Be present with us and keep us safe as we watch weather forecasts in the midst of working, learning, traveling, and seeking safety. Guide first responders as they await news of whether they will be called upon. Be our refuge today and always. We pray in the name of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.

Please make sure you know where to seek shelter, wherever you are: at work, at home, at school, commuting, etc. Have a communication plan with your family and neighbors to check on one another.

Happy Easter to you all.