

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. *refrain*
2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *refrain*
3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. 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 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

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.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation:

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Gospel: John 20:19-31

Glory to You O Lord!

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus 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.”²⁶ A 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.”²⁷ Then 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.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But 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 our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

I Come with Joy

#482

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land.

Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others especially we pray for our members Rolland, Donna, Walli, Betty, Ron, Gloria and Gene. We pray for our friends Donna, Denise, Bill, Dawn, Dorothy, Stephani, Karla, Orin, Danielle, Krista, Betty, Charlene, Meghan and Matt let us pray that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. We pray for those serving in the military including: Alex, T.J., Ben, Vicki, Jeremy, Luke, Miranda and Daniel.

We pray for seminarian Kaylie Ines. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community (*name*). Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy (*especially*). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you all: **And also with you!**

MEAL

Offertory

Christ Is Arisen

J.K.F. Fischer

Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Congregation sings

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Eucharistic Prayer

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Lord’s Prayer

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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.

Distribution of Communion

After Communion:

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

May almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Closing Hymn

Thine is the Glory

#376

POSTLUDE

At the Lamb's High Feast

Paul Manz

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3/31/2021

	Actual	Actual	Budget
	Mar-21	Jan – Mar 21	Jan – Mar 21
Revenue	26,414.61	50,636.06	36,289.97
Expenses	<u>11,083.23</u>	<u>37,767.40</u>	<u>40,121.19</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>15,331.38</u>	<u>12,868.66</u>	<u>(3,831.22)</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>93,535.29</u>		

Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers

Although Malaysia still lacks a Sexual Harassment Act, a long-awaited Sexual Harassment Act will be tabled in the next Dewan Rakyat session, according to the *Malay Mail*. But it took 20 years for the proposal of this bill alone, It was first spearheaded in 2000 by a coalition of NGOs through the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality. But recently a group of Sabahan women took matters into their own hands to cover some ground in Sabah, especially in their higher education institutions, and founded *Safe Campus*.

Safe Campus was started by a group of 4, but is now being led by two remaining leaders, Christyne Surindai and Amanda William. They are volunteers in SAWO, Sabah Women's Action Resource Group, which does advocacy work on domestic violence survivors, women's rights, and provides leadership training for young women who are known as SAWOrriers.

Campuses in Sabah aren't safe for female students, especially in the urban areas. For instance, in 2008 a 22-year-old student was abducted and raped within a distance of her dorm, and in 2018, a foundation student was sexually assaulted by the campus security guard.

SAWO is campaigning by means of bite-sized sexual harassment education on their social media pages. These include some legal resources in Malaysia, forms of sexual harassment, myths and misconceptions, and more. They recently produced a video featuring 5 anonymous Sabahan survivors who shared their experience and hosted an online sexual harassment workshop over Zoom.

Part of their creating awareness of anti-sexual harassment policies on campus is to work with student leaders from different clubs, in the hope that ripple effects will increase their members' awareness of this problem. One difficulty is that some students are studying off-campus. But the first sexual harassment workshop went well, and Christyne and Amanda are planning a second round for these leaders already.

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, and Gloria and Gene Holdsworth; Friends and family of Vernon Truhe and of Charlene Stevens

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
		Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's Daughter
		Matt Forrester	Pastor Amy's brother

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		
Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife		

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Luke Hammontree Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Tyler Atkinson	4/11	Keith Ferguson	4/11
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be collecting **Personal Care Kit items for Lutheran World Relief**. Anyone may donate to this worthwhile project, sponsored by Messiah Church Women. A tub will be available with lists of what is needed on the north Fellowship Hall table. We can also provide the items for you. Checks can be written to Messiah Church Women and dropped off in the office or sent to Chris Reinert. At present there is currently a great need for these kits, both in our country and abroad.

We are planning a **spring clean-up day** at Messiah Church on April 17th. If you are available to dust, declutter, trim bushes, pull weeds, etc. please join us anytime between 9 am and 1 pm.

Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting a **suicide intervention class** on April 22 & 23 from 8-4 both days in Lindsborg. You do need to be present both days. ASIST is the gold star

standard in suicidology. Ericka Lysell is a master trainer and will be co training with a crisis therapist from Prairie View. Please let Ericka know if you are interested in this class 785-822-8619. It is free due to a SV community foundation grant.

Now is the time to **begin cleaning out all those treasures** that you no longer have a use for or are just tired of looking at. Children's clothes are welcome; adult clothing not so much. You can bring items to the church anytime.

APRIL 11, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psalm 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to [Thomas], “Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” **John 20:29 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Walk by Faith

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression “seeing is believing” mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, “*Come and see*” (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to “*Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done*” (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, “*Lord, I believe*” (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, “*I have seen the Lord*” (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people “*may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God*” and “*have life in his name*” (v. 31). Today’s disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today’s disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come “to see,” to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

Pray: **Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God’s love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is _____. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.**