

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Easter 2 - April 11, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #158 - *"I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again"*

**I am content! My Jesus lives again,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the law of God for me;
God's wrath he has appeased.
Since he in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!**

**I am content! My Jesus is my head;
His member I will be.
He bowed his head when on the cross he died
With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me, too, by his resurrection.
I am content! I am content!**

**I am content! My Jesus is my Light,
My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all:
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation
And everlasting exultation.
I am content! I am content!**

**I am content! Lord, set me ever free
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With you, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;**

**Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 3:12-20

When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. “Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you. (EHV)

Psalm 16

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**Keep me 'safe, O God,
For in you I take 'refuge.**

**I said to the LORD, "You 'are my Lord;
Apart from you I have 'no good thing."**

**I have set the LORD always be'fore me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be 'shaken.**

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**My heart is glad and my tongue re'joices;
My body also will 'rest secure,**

**Because you will not abandon me 'to the grave,
Nor will you let your Holy One 'see decay.**

**You have made known to me the 'path of life;
You will fill me with joy in your 'presence.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep his commands. In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe." After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. But 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. (EHV)

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #403 - *"I Know My Faith is Founded"*

**I know my faith is founded
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing,
Unmoved I stand upon his Word.
Man's reason cannot fathom
The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in worldly wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient,
It makes divinely sure,
And, trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.**

**Increase my faith, dear Savior,
For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with you beside me
I shall be undismayed;
And led by your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow.
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe.**

**In faith, Lord, let me serve you;
Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain.
And then at my departure,
Lord, take me home to you,
And let me there inherit
All you have promised me.
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until your heav'n I gain,
Where I by your great mercy
The end of faith attain.**

The Sermon: Acts 3:12-20
“Ignorance Is No Excuse”

Did you ever find yourself in one of those **embarrassing** situations where you were caught doing something you **didn't know** was wrong? It sometimes happens in situations where we are **new**, and aren't **familiar** with the rules ahead of time - like the out-of-state driver who gets stopped by a local officer for **speeding** and says, “Sorry officer, I didn't **realize** this was only a 35 mph zone.” It can also happen when we decide to **overlook** the rules - like the child who tries this line, “Hey Mom, what are you so angry about? I **didn't know** the pie was for something special!” Of course in both cases, the rules still apply, and I'm sure that some form of **punishment** would be carried out. You see, in most instances, **Ignorance Is No Excuse**.

The sermon in our text was preached by the Apostle **Peter** following the healing of a **crippled man** by Peter and John. The news of this miracle immediately began to **spread**, and a large **crowd** gathered around these two disciples. The people **marveled** at their **power**, but Peter made it very clear with this sermon that the man had **not** been healed by **their** power - but rather, by the power of, and in the name of **Jesus**.

Peter's message began, “*The God of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant **Jesus**.*” Notice how Peter **appealed** to the crowd which had gathered. They were primarily **Jews**, and Peter wanted them to know that it was **their** God who had performed this miracle - the God of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**. Those men were the **patriarchs** - the individuals who had fathered both the Jewish **nation** and the Jewish **religion**. The Jews took great **pride** in the fact that they were the children of Abraham - so naturally, they would be able to **relate** to what Peter was telling them here. Peter didn't exempt **himself** and **John** either. They **also** were children of Abraham, and they **rejoiced** in the miraculous **healing** which their God had brought about.

However, by the grace of God there were also some **differences** between these two **disciples** and the **crowd** which had gathered. Peter continued, “*You handed (him) over and **disowned** (him) in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. You disowned the **Holy and Righteous One** and asked to have a **murderer** given to you. You **killed** the Author of Life, whom **God raised from the dead**. **We are witnesses of this**.*” Here Peter was preaching the **law** with its full **force**, and he was doing it by means of **comparisons** - comparisons which all revolved around **Jesus**.

First he compared **God** and the **Jews**. God had **glorified** Jesus. The most recent **showing** of that glory was in the **healing** which had just taken place. But God had **also** glorified Jesus in His **life**, and in His **death**; as well as in His **resurrection** from the dead, and His **ascension** into heaven. On the other hand, the **Jews** had not glorified Jesus **at all**. They had **rejected** Him - handing Him over to be **killed**, and **disowning** Him before Pilate. They had delivered Jesus into the hands of the chief priests and elders. They had even cried out for His **crucifixion**.

This is where Peter made his **second** comparison - one between **Pilate** and the **Jews**. Pontius Pilate was a **heathen** Roman governor, but after questioning Jesus several times, he was **unable** to find Him guilty of **any** crime, and he sought to **release** Jesus. But again, the **Jews** wouldn't stand for it, and they continued to push for His **crucifixion**. Even when Pilate had washed his hands of the matter the Jews said, "*Fine. We will **gladly** take the blame. His blood will be on **us**, and on our **children**.*"

They had also begged Pilate to release **Barabbas** to them. Peter made a **third** comparison there - one between **Barabbas** and **Jesus**. The Jews had chosen **Barabbas** - a **disrupter** of society - a **murderer** - a **destroyer** of life. And they had **killed** Jesus - the **Savior** - holy and righteous - the Author of **life**. The disciples were **witnesses** to all of these facts. There could be no **overlooking** them, or **denying** them. The facts were **there**, and the facts were **plain**.

Now please don't **misinterpret** Peter's motives. He wasn't trying to do **away** with the Jewish nation by driving them to **despair**. On the contrary, Peter was very **concerned** about the Jews. Peter **himself** was a Jew, as was **Jesus**. They were his **people**, his **blood brothers**, and Peter hoped that someday they would also be his brothers in the **faith**. That's why he was bringing them this message of stern **law**. They had to recognize **now**, that what they had done in **rejecting** Jesus was **sinful**, even though they hadn't realized it **at the time**.

Their actions, and the actions of their **leaders**, were done out of **ignorance**. They were among the people for whom Jesus **prayed** from the cross, "*Father, **forgive** them because they **don't know** what they are **doing**.*" They **couldn't** have known, for Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "*None of the rulers of this world **knew** it. (If they **had** known it, they would not have **crucified** the Lord of glory.)*" They were **ignorant** of their sin, but **Ignorance Is No Excuse**. Sin remains sin. They didn't **know** they had crucified **God's Son**, but they knew they had crucified **somebody** - and they knew that He didn't **deserve** it either. Somehow they had allowed their pride and their emotions to **run away** with them, and before they knew it, they

couldn't **turn back**. They **knew** all of God's laws which exhorted them to deal with one another (even with their enemies) in **love**, but they weren't **applying** those laws to **themselves**.

The Jews didn't **know** what they were doing, but **God did**. We read, "*In this way God **fulfilled** what he had **foretold** through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would **suffer**.*" God had **used** their sinful actions to carry out His plan of **salvation**. God had used their **lovelessness** to show forth His perfect **love**. And the love which He showed by offering the life of His Son, was not going to **end** there.

After hearing the convicting testimony of Peter in his sermon, the Jews may have been on the verge of **despair**. But Peter assured them that God's **love** was still **effective**, and it was being extended to **them**. I'm sure they felt much like Joseph's brothers felt when they finally realized that their brother wasn't **dead**, but rather was the **ruler** of the world's most powerful nation at that time - Egypt. They thought that Joseph would seek **revenge** for what they had done to him. But Joseph only wanted them to **turn away** from their former deeds, and leave them in the **past**. God had **forgiven** them - He had made everything work out for the **best** - and He had **reunited** their family.

There was **forgiveness** for Joseph's brothers, and there was also forgiveness for the **Jews** in our text. So Peter told them, "***Repent and return to have your sins wiped out, so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.***" Peter **himself** had experienced the **forgiveness** which comes with **repentance**. Peter, who was among the **closest** of Jesus' disciples - Peter, who boldly stated that he would **never** fall away. Yes, even **he** had **denied** the Lord, but he had also found **forgiveness**. In **reinstating** His wayward disciple, Jesus had told Peter to feed His **lambs** and His **sheep**. And that's exactly what Peter was **doing** in our text. The message which he **personally** knew to be true, he was now **sharing** with others. **Repent**, and your sins will be **blotted out**.

Just as clouds **blot out** the rays of the sun, or debts are **blotted out** when they have been paid - with one sweep of the **eraser**, our Lord has **wiped clean** all the **sins** which were marked on the world's blackboard. The Jews tried to claim **ignorance** of these things. But **Ignorance Is No Excuse**. And even if it were, we couldn't **claim** it for ourselves - because we are **not** ignorant. We have been **told** again and again about the **loving actions** of our Savior, and about His free **forgiveness**. Every time we celebrate the **Lord's Supper** the opportunity is here. Will we receive it **regularly** and **frequently**? The Lord wants to take us **back** into

His fold. He wants to **forgive** us and make us **strong**, so we will **share** the message of forgiveness with **others** as Peter did. **Repent!** We need to **turn away** from our sins, and leave them in the **past**. Although we **also** are guilty of **killing** the Author of life, and we also are guilty of **disowning** our Lord, Jesus has forgiven it **all**. May the **forgiveness** which our Lord Jesus brings us through His glorious Easter resurrection, fill us with great **joy**, and with an undying **zeal** to carry out His will in our lives. Amen.

Prayers:

O precious Savior Jesus Christ, there is no work or sacrifice **we** can do to turn away God's wrath from us. But thanks be to **You** - through Your suffering and death on the **cross** You have won **full pardon** for our sins, and established **peace** with God on our behalf. God unmistakably announced this peace to the whole world when He **raised** You from the dead. Now peace and forgiveness will **always** be ours, because You live **forever** to make intercession for us in heaven. O ever-living Lord, this peace which You brought to us sinners fills our souls with a holy **joy** because we know that whenever we meet God, we will stand before Him **un-accused**, **un-condemned**, and **unpunished**; and at the last we will be received into the everlasting joys of **heaven**.

Heavenly Father, the reminders of Your curse on **sin** are still evident; in the thorns, thistles, and weeds that plague the **ground**; and in the toil, pain, and death that are so much a part of **our** temporal life. Pour Your **strength** into us, keep us **faithful** to You, **hear** us when we pray, and remove all the things which **distress** us. And, so that we may experience the peace which surpasses all understanding, **pardon** our sins and offenses, as we daily plead the merits of Your **Son**.

O Holy Spirit, we thank You for giving us our **faith**, to receive God's offer of peace through Jesus. Grant that we remain **steadfast** in our faith, so that we may never **lose** our redemption purchased with the Savior's blood. Cause the peace which God has declared through Jesus to **rule** our hearts so bountifully, that we will serve our God in **all** we do, and live in **peace** and **love** with our fellow man. Broadcast throughout the world that blessed message of **pardon** and **peace** in the crucified and risen Savior, and draw the hearts of sinners to **Jesus**, calling them to **repentance**. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Hymn #165 - *“O Sons and Daughters of the King”*

**O sons and daughters of the King,
Whom heav’nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**On that first morning of the week,
Before the day began to break,
The Marys went their Lord to seek.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**An angel bade their sorrow flee,
For thus he spoke unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**That night th’ apostles met in fear;
Among them came their Lord most dear
And said: “Peace be unto you here.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**When Thomas afterwards had heard
That Jesus had fulfilled his word,
He doubted if it were the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**“Thomas, behold my side,” said he,
“My hands, my feet, my body see;
And doubt not, but believe in me.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God,” he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Blessed are they that have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been;
In life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**On this most holy day of days
To God your hearts and voices raise
In laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #146 - “His Battle Ended There”

**His battle ended there, death was overcome.
Jesus, alive again, wore the victor’s crown.
Clearly sin had failed; goodness had prevailed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dread pow’rs of death and sin had him in their hold.
When Jesus rose again all their plans were foiled.
Jesus lived again, triumphed over sin.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dead in the grave he lay, mourned by ev'ry friend.
Those dark and fearful days then did reach their end.
God raised him to life, victor in the strife.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**He burst the chains of sin, opened death's dark jail.
God filled him with new life, life that could not fail.
Right before their eyes Jesus did arise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**