



“Unless I see
the mark of the nails
in his hands...
I will not believe.”

John 20:25, NRSV

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church- ELCA
Melo Lutheran Church- ELCA**

Mission Statement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who are willing to take risks to serve and worship God. We exist to inspire each other in reaching out to others in God's love through worship, youth ministry, ecumenical cooperation and stewardship of all our resources.

Our Savior's/ Melo Lutheran Churches
Warren and Rural Angus, Minnesota
Pastor David Peterson

2nd Sunday in Easter

19 April 2009

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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

DeeDee Carlson (Melo)
Joan Peterson (OSL)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand if you are able

GATHERING SONGS

“He Is Exalted”

Insert

“There Is a Redeemer”

“Spirit of the Living God”

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: 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.

HYMN

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW #512

THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

Now 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

How 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.

THE SECOND READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

We 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.

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

(Please stand if you are able)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

When 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

Pastor Dave

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Sing Out, Earth and Skies”

Insert

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Sit

OFFERING

(Please stand if you are able)

OFFERATORY

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

Insert

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Begin and conclude the prayers by singing ELW #752)*

P: Transformed by the life-giving power of the empty tomb, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P: Blessed by God's continued love and presence among us, let us pray for the church to be the wounded hands of Christ to all who doubt or disbelieve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Blessed by a universe rich with wonder and vitality, let us pray for a common dedication to the well-being of all living creatures. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Blessed by the bonds of community for mutual care and support, let us pray for safe neighborhoods, adequate housing, and sufficient food for all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Blessed by peace and comfort in the midst of fear and confusion, let us pray for those facing the loss of a loved one, a job, or good health (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Blessed by firm tradition and ever-evolving transformation, let us give thanks for all who work for renewal in this congregation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Blessed by the timeless promise of the resurrection, let us give thanks for (*names and all*) the faithful departed, that at the last we may be united with them in the one true fellowship of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Hear our prayers, gracious God, and grant all that we need to live as your Spirit-filled people, in the name of the risen Christ.

C: 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

BLESSING

P: Children by the grace of God, one in Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, rejoice in the resurrection and live in hope, peace, and joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“We Will Glorify”

Insert

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Believing, We See

Many of us live by the motto "Seeing is believing." We want proof first. We believe someone's promise only when the person has done something to prove it. We adopt a "wait and see" attitude with a new idea.

In today's gospel reading, Thomas embodies the "seeing is believing" motto. He refuses to believe that his friends have seen the risen Jesus. He needs to see the proof with his own eyes. A week later Christ appears again and says to Thomas: "Here I am. Touch me and see." Notice that Jesus does not criticize Thomas, but says, "Do not doubt but believe" (John 20:27). The Risen One comes to offer himself to Thomas, so that he might believe in God's power over death.

We all have crises of faith, like Thomas. Doubts can be a much-needed part of our life as God's people; they make us wrestle with crucial questions. However, this gospel story is not primarily about doubts. It is about faith, and the one who gives and renews our faith.

God pours out the gift of faith through Christ's risen body. Faith does not depend on what we experience or feel or do. Faith is not something that needs to be proved, or "increased" through some kind of cookbook recipe. No, faith comes to us from the one who refuses to let us go. Throughout all of life's twists and turns, all of our doubts and affirmations, is the deep wellspring presence of God.

In Christ our motto is no longer "seeing is believing" but "believing, we see." Given God's promise to be with us, our fearful hearts are sprung open to behold his wounded and risen life in the heart of creation, in the midst of broken lives. Receiving this gift of faith, we can then cry out with our brother Thomas: My Lord and my God! Christ is living among us!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New this week

OSL WELCA will host their annual Spring Dinner on Wednesday, April 22 from 5-7pm. Menu includes: meatball & gravy, scalloped potatoes, corn, peas, coleslaw, rolls, dessert. Take outs available. Supporting funds through Thrivent.

Please note change: The New Member classes will be held Wednesday evenings beginning April 29 and going to May 27. New members will be received on May 31st.

There will be three opportunities for conversation about the Human Sexuality Statements to be considered at the church-wide assembly. The meetings will be on April 23 at Zion Lutheran in Viking, April 30 at 1st Lutheran in Warren and May 7 at Our Savior's. The conversations will begin at 7pm and last 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Cluster 2 WELCA Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 25th at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt, MN. Registration begins at 8am with coffee and goodies. The program begins at 9m with featured speaker Beverly Slevin from Roseau, MN.

There is a box of yarn in the office that is available to anyone who is knitting prayer shawls. Please help yourself.

Deadline for the May newsletter is Wednesday, April 22nd. Anything received after that date will be used in next months newsletter.

Pathways needs your help to get camp ready. Pathways workday buffet at Emmaus May 9, Minne-Wa-Kan May 16, Lake of the Woods June 6 starting at 9am. Bring work clothes, rags, gloves and rakes. If you have a mower, weed wacker, chainsaw & vacuum please bring them. For more info check out www.pathwaysbiblecamps.com

Thank you to everyone who signed up to deliver Meals on Wheels. There is 1 day that still needs to be filled. If you can deliver a noon meal on Wednesday, April 22, please put your name on the calendar on the office door.

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Tootsie Roll Drive after church on Sunday, April 26th. All proceeds will be donated to the ODC.

Agassiz Swedish Heritage Society will hold its annual meeting Thursday, April 30 at the Warren Community Center. A turkey dinner will be served at 5:30pm. Please contact Marilyn Mattson at 745-4915 to reserve.

Participants for Today's Worship, April 19

Acolytes: Casey Conely and Jayce Hapka
Ushers: Mike Flaten, Maynard & JoAnn Laymon, Ida Nelson
Lector: Bev Clausen
Psalm Readers: 6th grade
Nursery: DeDe Flaten
Coffee Hosts: Minerva Schantzen and Elaine Myrfield

Participants for Next Sunday's Worship, April 26

Acolytes: Madeline DuBore
Ushers: Randy & Ryan Blanchard, Carol Anderson, JoAnn Laymon
Lector: Carol Anderson
Psalm Readers: 4th Grade
Nursery:
Coffee Hosts: Deb Blanchard and DeDe Flaten
Communion Servers:

This week in the Parish

TODAY- MOOSE 12:30pm
KOK 2:00pm
Monday, April 20- Weight Watchers 5:00 pm
Tuesday, April 21- ODC Bible Study 9:00am
Quilting 1:00pm
1st Communion Class 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 22- Confirmation 6:00pm
Choir Practice 7:00pm
WELCA SPRING DINNER 5-7PM
Friday, April 24- Preschool screening in am
Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, April 25- Johnson/Edgar Wedding
Next Sunday, April 26- Melo Worship 9:15am
Sunday School 9:15am
Adult Bible Study 9:15am
OSL Worship 10:30am

Prayer list

Those in need: Mitchel Benson, LaVerne
Owens, Phyllis Stinar, Vicki Polchow, Catie
Blanchard, Cameo Folz, Larry Johnson,
Emilie Holland, Leah Hamre, Brittany
Dvorak, Joe Yeado, Doris Aase, Ray
Swanson, Norita Goplin Beaudry

April 12

Attendance	Offering
138	\$3,724.26
<u>Sunrise</u>	\$1,508.00