

April 7-13, 2021

Sharing good news from
Reformation Lutheran Church



The Weekly Word

“We’re not in this alone, fix your eyes on Jesus” .

—Deuteronomy 31:8

Readings for Sunday, April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

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.



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and personal confession.)

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

■ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray



A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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

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.

■ PSALM: Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity! ²It 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.

■ SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

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 HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN: John 20:19-31

P: The gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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.

P: The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ!



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 INTERCESSION

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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 (*names*). Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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 (*names*). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.





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.**





We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 That, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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COMING UP *at Reformation...*

Wednesday, April 7th

NO BIBLE STUDY OR TABLE TALK THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 11th

10:00 a.m. ZOOM Service hosted by Jerry Plassman

11:30 a.m. Service at www.reformationlc.org.

Monday, April 12th

12 noon Ministry Reports Due to Parish Office

Tuesday, April 13th

6:00pm COUNCIL MEETING

It's time again for **COUNCIL MEETING**

It's hard to believe, but it is already time for our next Parish Council Meeting.

Please submit all Ministry Reports electronically no later than **12 noon on Monday, April 12th.**

Council will meet at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM on Tuesday, April 13th.

Voting members still needed for Virginia Synod Assembly

The Virginia Synod Assembly will be held on **Saturday, June 12th via ZOOM**. We need one male and one female voting member to participate. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested in serving. Thank you!

ZOOM WORSHIP CHANGES FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY, APRIL 11th

As Oneita Ericson continues her recovery, Pastor Ericson will not be with us this Sunday. **Jerry Plassman will be hosting the ZOOM service at 10:00 a.m. and Pastor David Gunderlach will preside.**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONNECT TO JERRY'S ZOOM WORSHIP

Time: 10:00 a.m. Sunday, April 11, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8528723215?pwd=d0pZL1pVM2g0bXlhMVJ3ZVVjakRYdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 872 3215 Passcode: 302821

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,8528723215#,,,,*302821# US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8528723215?pwd=d0pZL1pVM2g0bXlhMVJ3ZVVjakRYdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 872 3215 Passcode: 302821

God's Peace is the topic of our April Facebook Bible Study

We hope you will join us for the April Facebook Virtual Bible Study, God's Peace #purepeace. Our study begins Wednesday, April 7th and continues through Wednesday, April 28th.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." — Matthew 5:9



The word peacemaker means "to do" or "to make." It requires action on our part. Jesus, as the supreme peacemaker, **established** peace; His message **explained** peace; His death **purchased** peace; and His resurrection **enabled** peace. During this 21-day study of God's word, may you be encouraged to live with others and produce right relationships in every area of your life. Where there is conflict He will give you guidance to work toward peace, trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide you in peacemaking. Don't miss this opportunity to study the Word of God together.

Week One Reading

- Day 1 1 Peter 3:9-11
- Day 2 Proverbs 16:7
- Day 3 Isaiah 26:3
- Day 4 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Day 5 Romans 12:18
- Day 6 John 16:33
- Day 7 Romans 15:13



HE IS RISEN!

The cross erected in the front corner of the church spreads the good news!

Thanks to John Race and to the Gunderlachs for helping us share this with our community.



Thank you to everyone for your prayers and acts of kindness during Oneita's hospitalization. We're so grateful for our Reformation family. I'm taking time this week to do follow-up doctor visits to ensure that Oneita continues on the path to recovery. Your continued prayers are welcome.

Happy Easter to you all!

Pastor John