



Perley Lutheran Parish
April 11th, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter



Gathering Hymn: Joyful, Joyful. We Adore Thee
Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest.
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest.
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Welcome and Announcements

- Beautiful Easter
- Don Reiersen in Essentia
- Newsletter out – wish to help with Parking Lot Bingo see Carolyn
- Thank you to Sherman Hogenson
- Council Meeting today after the service
- Reach out if you need anything
- Food Shelf needs

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in the Lenten season we heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving peace of reconciliation. On this day let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with God and each other.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us live together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

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

Psalm 133 (Read Responsively)

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.** It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31, **Glory to you O Lord**

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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**

Children's Message - A dollar bill, two paper clips

Today I am going to show you something that I'm not sure you'll believe. First I am going to take this dollar bill and fold it into thirds. Next, I will take one paper clip and clip the top section of the dollar to the middle section. Now I will take the other paper clip and clip the bottom section to the middle section. Before I put the paper clips onto the bill, they were separate. But when I pull on the two ends of the dollar bill, they're going to jump off the bill and connect themselves. Do you believe me? (Pause.) Let's try it! (Pull the ends of the bills to make the paper clips jump off, then show kids that the paper clips became connected.)

I need you to help me tell what happened in the Bible. Whenever you hear the word "believe," please make this motion. (Mouth wide open and hands beside sides of face.)

That's cool, isn't it? Now that you have seen it, do you believe (Pause.) it? Sometimes we must see something before we believe (Pause.) it, don't we?

It was like that for some people in the Bible, too. On the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, His disciples were together in a locked room. They were afraid of those who had crucified Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus appeared there in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard to believe (Pause.), but they saw Him, and Jesus showed them His wounds in His hands and His side, so they knew it was Him.

One of the disciples, Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. When they told Thomas, he didn't believe (Pause.) them. He had seen Jesus crucified and buried. How could He be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in His side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in His hands, I will not believe (Pause.) it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again, and this time, Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe (Pause.)."

Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed (Pause.); blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (Pause.)."

You and I have never seen Jesus with our own eyes. The question is, will we be one of those who is blessed because we believe (Pause.), even though we have not seen?

Kids can stop making the believe motion now.

Dear God, help us to believe in our heart the truths we find in Your Holy Word, even though we have not seen them with our own eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Let us set the stage of our Gospel today. They are all gather in the Upper Room – yes, the same room that they had gathered just days prior to have their Passover meal. This time however they are hiding out behind closed doors. They are hiding from the religious leaders who had condemned Jesus to the cross and are worried they too will end in some dire way as well. The religious leaders had turned away from their leader, Jesus, so much so that they had even turned to Pontius Pilate – who was their oppressor, their enemy – to carry out their plan. They had schemed and accomplished the demise and death of Jesus. And not only had they accomplished His death – which under the Jewish law at the time SHOULD have been a sentence of stoning for blasphemy – but they had managed to twist that law to bring Jesus to the cross – death by crucifixion. So torture and execution – clearly a horrific and shameful sentence.

If these religious leaders would stoop to such low and horrific lengths to deal with Jesus, what then would be the fate of those who had followed and worked with and for him? His disciples were worried and they had every reason to be afraid. They had twisted and maneuvered the truth and the actions of Jesus to get what they wanted – his death – and clearly they were concerned that they would be getting their punishment for following Jesus if found as well. So we find them tucked away inside the upper room and far from anyone's sight. The doors were locked to keep others out and they would stay that way. Hiding out and locked in.

And then he appeared. Just like that Jesus was standing there. "Peace be with you" – the word of His resurrection was true! He was alive and standing in front of them. In a room where the doors were locked and the disciples were hiding. They rejoiced – his promise to return to them had come true and they were standing in the midst of the Son of God. Into their fears, Jesus – the risen

Jesus – brings them peace. He doesn't bring just any old peace either – he brings his peace. For He himself is peace and his presence is source of all peace. They had been anxious and fearful and now Jesus was amongst them and his presence was indeed bringing them peace. The book of John really doesn't go into a lot of depth regarding this gift of peace and the Holy Spirit – it concentrates more on the story of Thomas. It is however important to hear these words from Jesus again, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”* Jesus is sharing peace but also commissioning us – as disciples to continue to live as believers and followers of God. He's sending us out to continue the work and spread the word.

Now back to Thomas. It's unfortunate that Thomas isn't present in that Upper Room that night. It's unfortunate that he didn't get to witness the sudden and miraculous appearance of the Son of God appearing in the room that was locked. It's unfortunate that Thomas doubts the stories he's hearing. Most importantly, it's unfortunate that Thomas admits that he needs more than just the words and the stories – *“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.”* He needs proof! Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive much less that they had seen him and he needed more in order to understand and believe what they had reported.

The next Sunday – a week after Jesus first showed up to share the peace – they are still gathered and hiding away in that room. And this time when Jesus appears Thomas is present and see him. We all know what nick name poor Thomas has, in fact we even call this Sunday “Doubting Thomas Sunday”. Yes, he doubted but wait a minute, is he the only one doubting?? Think about it – the disciples believed that Jesus showed up that first time but they didn't believe in what Jesus had told them would happen. The disciples were all doubters in that they were afraid, and worried, and scared. They worried because they didn't know what was going to happen to them – sounds like some of the feelings I have at times with what is going on in my life, in this world and in my faith. We all worry and have fear when we don't know what lies ahead, when we fear that what may happen may be bad, we what is ahead isn't what we want or believe we need. We have our doubts. We roll good AND bad scenarios around in our minds trying to know and control what our lives and our futures should be. We believe those scenarios and times and those doubts bring worry to our lives. Thomas doubted. The disciples doubted. We doubt. Perhaps this Sunday should really be called Doubting Disciples Sunday then, right?

What changed then for those disciples? What changed for Thomas especially? Did they still have doubts, sure, but they stopped believing in them and started concentrating on the peace that Jesus had brought in his presence with them. They believed Jesus. There was however those still out looking for them – the religious leaders still needed to put a stop to what Jesus had started. Yes the leaders had died on the cross but he had followers and they would need to be stopped and dealt with as well. They were still in danger but Jesus had spoken His peace to them. And when Jesus said “peace be with you” he gave them peace. God spoke the word, “let there be light” and there was. Almighty God's power was almighty and his Word was not just words. His Word accomplished – always accomplished – what it said.

Jesus says to them, and to us, “peace be with you” and we have His peace when we hear these words. Not just a mere peace that bring us rest and quiet but a true peace. We have Jesus – who was with the disciples on that first Sunday, on this second Sunday, and who is with us for every Sunday after that. Do we know what lies ahead for us tomorrow, next week, month or year? We wish at times. But we don't and do we then still have doubts? Of course. But we need not believe in our doubts, we need to believe in Jesus. Jesus tells *us* *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”* We didn't get to be that Upper Room and yet we know that Christ WAS crucified and that he DID rise and that he IS reigning from the throne in heaven. And most importantly, we know that He will come again – in all His glory – to bring us into the kingdom of God forever. We have Jesus and we have his peace.

I close with the last few lines of our Gospel this morning. *“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.” May peace be with you! Amen

Hymn of the Day: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing to day with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, **O God. Your mercy is great.**)

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.

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 evermore. Like dew upon the grass, 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 place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing and love. Give us the power of our generous Spirit that we provide for the needs of others. Announce our peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering or afraid. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Don and Margie, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Marlis, Jeff and Evonne, Kirk and Byron, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... 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

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and 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. 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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

After Communion Prayer

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

Blessing

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**

Sending Hymn: Thine is the Glory

Thine is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in the bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death has won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee, Risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his Church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing
For the Lord now liveth, to thy home above.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death has won!

Dismissal – Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, April 18th – Services at 9am at Nora (live streamed and in-person) Council Meeting at Nora

Sunday, April 25th – Services at 9am at Kirkebo (live streamed and in -person)

Saturday May 1st – Parking Lot Bingo at Kirkebo, 1-3pm

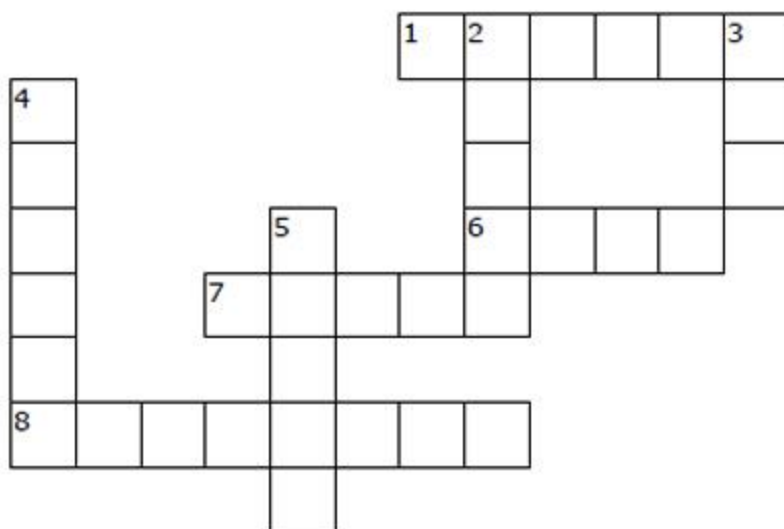
Doubting Thomas



Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 20:19-31.



ACROSS

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. An entrance into a building or room
7. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
8. Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

2. The body parts at the end of the arms
3. To observe with your eyes
4. Not open
5. To believe in something for which there is no proof

FAITH
HANDS

THOMAS
SEE

CLOSED
DOUBTING

NAILS
DOOR

Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25 (NIV)

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K T S T K O N V A E S N M G G
Q X U H H T D R H G S M Q S S
L T F O B W K E M N W I J P R
E Y R M E E X K G H G R Q Z C
W Y V A L T H I I A Y A B C S
Q V V S I O S Q L N S C O S S
D A V Q E G C C C D F L B H P
O O E L V E W K W S J E S O T
O S S U E T S A E X B S L W O
R M O A D H D B J D P V C E U
S H V C I E O I E T P P J D C
D Q S D L R R E C O R D E D H
S I D E I I J P Q I Y J S Y E
V M D I S C I P L E S X U I D
V E D O U B T I N G H F S P A

THOMAS
HANDS
SIDE

DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
RECORDED

DOORS
DOUBTING
BELIEVED

MIRACLES
SHOWED
JESUS

TOUCHED
SIGNS
LOCKED

Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



K	I	A	F	C	M	D	W	B	G	Z	X	N	U	S	L	T	Q	Y	O	H	J	R	P	E	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 7-2-15-5-2-24-16-25-15 _____
2. 7-20-20-23-15 _____
3. 16-20-5-1-25-7 _____
4. 21-3-13-7-15 _____
5. 15-2-7-25 _____
6. 17-21-20-6-3-15 _____
7. 7-20-14-9-17-2-13-10 _____
8. 17-20-14-5-21-25-7 _____
9. 9-25-16-2-25-26-25-7 _____
10. 7-2-15-5-2-24-16-25-15 _____

DOUBTING	DISCIPLES	LOCKED	SIDE	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	HANDS	DOORS	THOMAS	BELIEVED