



Perley Lutheran Parish
April 18th, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter



Gathering Hymn: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heaven resounds in praise and love that still abounds:

Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring and with the heavenly blessed sing:

Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!

Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest most holy God,

All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Welcome and Announcements

- No Slides today
- Thanks Brian for helping
- Nora Council – May 2nd
- BINGO
- Reach out
- Food shelf – Thursdays 5-7

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

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Psalm 4 (Read Responsively)

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer. **How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?** But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. **When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.** Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the LORD. **There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"** You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. **I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.**

First Reading Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:36-48, **Glory to you O Lord**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

I remember going on camping trips when I was young. One of my family's favorite activities on those trips was sitting around a campfire at night and telling ghost stories. (Gather the children around the campfire, turn out the lights, and shine the flashlight on your face.) And as I listened, I told myself over and over, "There's no such thing as a ghost." But that didn't keep some of those stories from scaring the daylight out of me. I often found it hard to go to sleep later that night.

Now, that might seem like a strange way to begin a Bible lesson, but even in Bible times, some people believed in ghosts and were afraid of them. Listen to an example from the Bible.

It begins after two men had travelled on a long road, to a town called Emmaus. They talked about Jesus' death and all that had happened. As they walked, they were joined by a man. They didn't realize it at first, but it was Jesus! After Jesus revealed himself to them, they went straight back to Jerusalem and told Jesus' disciples.

As they told the disciples they'd seen Jesus, He suddenly appeared among them! He said to them, "Peace be with you." Knowing He'd died, they thought He was a ghost! The Bible says that they were terrified and filled with fear. (Have kids make their most terrified faces.)

So Jesus asked them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. (Hold out your hands and feet like Jesus did). You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."

Still the disciples weren't sure what to think, so Jesus asked them for something to eat. As He ate some fish, they watched. And it showed them He wasn't a ghost because a ghost doesn't need food.

The disciples realized Jesus had come back to life, and they spent the next month or so with Him. After Jesus returned back to heaven, those same disciples went all over the world, telling about Jesus' crucifixion, His death, and His resurrection. They never stopped telling about what happened.

You and I have been called to tell others about Jesus, just like those disciples. We must be a witness for Jesus, too. We must tell the world that Jesus is alive.

God, we serve a risen Savior. He is alive! Help us to be witnesses of what He has done in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message

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

Think about yourself for a moment. Are you a gullible type of person – one that believes everything you hear right away – or are you skeptical – take a while to believe or need to see to believe??

I have to tell you that in the last few weeks I have received the following:

1. An email stating that I can get 30% of 9.5 million dollars if I helped the sender – it said "*please bear it in mind that all the money will rightfully belong to your name as quickly as I get your reply, and I made the promise to god that the fund will be used to help the needy and the less privileged.*" What do you think? Should I believe it or be a bit skeptical??
2. A postcard in the mail that I had won a free trip to a Caribbean Island. It looked so wonderful – sun-filled scenery of beaches and palm trees. Free trip how could I resist that? Must be true, I'm always a lucky person – NOT!

Well, hopefully the 30% of 9.5 million was a hoax and the FREE trip to a sun-filled island WASN'T real because they didn't get any of my money or my personal information to complete those transactions.

It's hard to know what to believe. Lots of people say lots of things that are questionable on whether they are true or real or fake. When do you believe? When do you doubt? It's been over 2,000 years since Jesus died and rose from the dead. Do you believe it? If you're with me – yes! But we know that not everyone does. A lot of people are skeptical – it's just a made up story so people will give to the church. How can it be real if none of us have actually seen it? And life can change things – you may believe it now but what will you think 30-40 years from now? Could ANYTHING change your mind and question that Jesus died and rose for us?

We talked last week about doubt – poor Thomas – and we're going to continue to look at doubt again today. Those who actually saw Jesus in the Upper Room doubted – they got to see and still didn't believe. We're going to look at that and think for a moment about what could be what the only real cure for doubt could be as told to us in the Word.

Imagine for a moment what your Easter evening may look or may have looked like when you had children in your house. Kids usually are exhausted and you easily head to bed after all the festivities of getting up early to find their Easter baskets and gathering of family for a tremendous and

filling meal. Sound like Easter's you've experienced? Sometimes you spend that evening picking up all the plastic eggs and colored grass that the kids have carried throughout the house as well. It's a day of fun and festivities and we feel excited – yet exhausted – from all that has taken place. That's not how the first Easter evening would've been.

For the disciples – their Easter evening would've been a night locked up in hiding. Just days after watching Jesus dying on a cross, Jesus shows up and they are startled and afraid at first. They thought they were seeing a ghost – our passage says. In those days ghosts and spirits would be a pretty common thing for people to believe in. But Jesus says to them “why are you so troubled?” “why do you have doubts in your mind?” Jesus was believing what HE was seeing – he could see they were not only frightened but that they weren't believing that he was indeed alive and standing right there in front of them.

They were skeptical. For three years they had followed Jesus – believing that he WAS the Messiah and then they saw and heard all that happened. They saw the man who had done miracles be arrested. They saw Jesus tortured, heard people demanding him to be crucified and watched the man who could walk on water and calm the storms die on a cross. He could raise people from the dead and now he was dead and it hadn't made any sense. Everything that they had witnessed was a contradiction to all that they had seen and experienced with Jesus for the last three years so they were not going to go through that again. They WERE skeptical!

The disciples were blessed that day – they got to see Jesus and he not only spent time with them but sat and ate food as well. Now ghosts can't do that can they? So Jesus' intentions were clear – he was giving them the proof that he was physically alive and with them. Wouldn't it be nice if Jesus did that for us these days? When we are troubled, when we are doubted and when we are wandering away from him – he just shows up to set us straight. That doesn't happen BUT he has given us something to help – he has given us his Word. His Word to help us believe even without proof. Jesus pointed the disciples to the Word that night as well. “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled. Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” It says that he “opened their minds so that they could understand the scriptures” “This is what is written” he said and then he used these words to help them believe and understand. The Word took away their doubts and can still do so today.

We were given the Word for the exact reason – for us to use it and go to it when we have doubts, when we are hurting and questioning, when we need proof that God is with us. I know for myself I tend to look to scriptures far more when I'm questioning or struggling than I do when things are good but the reality is those words given to us can be so much more when and if we immerse ourselves in them often. They can prepare us in the good times for the bad times that may come. They can give us a greater sense of presence and faith in God so when those doubts try to creep into our lives we know that we are not alone.

Those disciples were tested – they were there in the midst of all that was going on at the time. They were told that by Jesus – they were witnesses to the death AND resurrection and Jesus was not asking them to not only get over their doubts but to go out and preach and teach in his name. Every one of them had and will be persecuted for believing and following Jesus – they had experienced death and pain and trouble because of who they believed and were with. They had every right to doubt and yet they had seen the risen Lord and that filled them with an unshakable faith.

Sure, he's not ever been physically standing in our midst – if only! You have however seen the risen Lord but in a different way. You see him in our lives when he forgives us and continues to love us even when we doubt. Peace be with you – remember that peace that is more than just a calming presence – the peace that fills us and helps us to know and believe that God loves you and if for you and that you have nothing to fear.

May God bless each and every one of us in that same kind of unshakeable faith that the disciples felt that day. May we continue to faithfully proclaim the message of the Risen Lord that we

are forgiven because of Jesus' death and resurrection. May we believe the words of Easter through the eyes of faith and through open minds to the Word of Christ. May peace be with you! Amen.

Hymn of the Day: Lord you Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission: Heal the sick and preach the Word.

Lest the Church neglect its mission, and the Gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: I am with you to the end.

Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

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.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, **O God. Your mercy is great**

Loving God, our nation is hurting right now. Where there is division help us to find peace and kindness. Where there is pain and loss from violence, provide presence and love to those who have loss. Help us all to find love for our neighbors, embrace our differences and be disciples to all people. Hear us, **O God. Your mercy is great**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and love to find health and wholeness. 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: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
In death his love shall never die.

Christ is alive! Ascended Lord-
He rules the world his Father made,
Till, in the end, his love adored
Shall be to all on earth displayed.

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

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

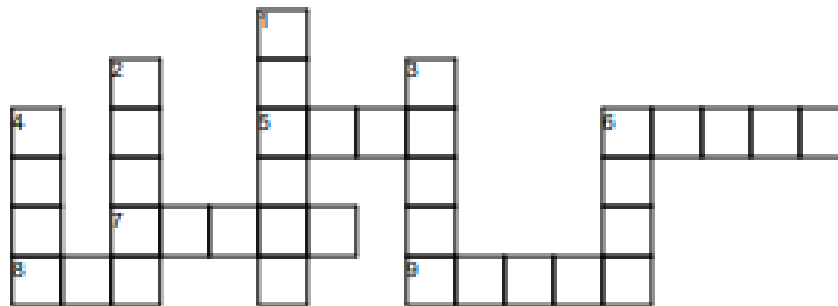
Sunday, May 2nd – Services at 9am at Nora (live streamed and in-person)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples



While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36 (NIV)

Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

5. An animal that lives in the water
6. The soft outer parts of the body; skin
7. What the skeleton is made of
8. To take in food through the mouth
9. to handle or feel something with your fingers

DOWN

1. To feel pain
2. To be unsure about something.
3. A dead person appearing in a bodily form
4. To return from death
6. An animal that lives in the water

TOUCH
FISH

RISE
EAT

FISH
DOUBT

FLESH
SUFFER

BONES
GHOST

Jesus Appears to the Disciples



While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24: 36-48

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

- | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| RISE | JESUS | PEACE | FISH | WITNESSES |
| GHOST | FRIGHTENED | FLESH | FEET | DEAD |
| BONES | DOUBTS | ATE | HANDS | TOUCH |

Jesus Appears to the Disciples



While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36 (NIV)

Complete the activity.

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

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

- 16-5-1-3-5 _____
- 8-1-14-4-19 _____
- 4-15-21-2-20-19 _____
- 2-15-14-5-19 _____
- 6-5-5-20 _____
- 6-18-9-7-8-20-5-14-5-4 _____
- 10-5-19-21-19 _____
- 7-8-15-19-20 _____
- 6-12-5-19-8 _____
- 6-9-19-8 _____

PEACE

HANDS

DOUBTS

BONES

FEET

FRIGHTENED JESUS

GHOST

FLESH

FISH