

April 11, 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad to be gathered with you. Please remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Thank you to this morning's worship assistants:

Todd Rothermel (reader), Rebecca Melick (greeter), Judy Formalarie & Dan Matyola (ushers).

Special thanks to Jade DiCriscio for playing the offertory and communion music.

This morning's hymns:

"That Easter Day with Joy was Bright" ELW 384

"We Walk by Faith" ELW 635

"Thine is the Glory" ELW 376

The altar flowers are given by Rick & Carolyn Schroeder in memory of loved ones.

We would like to thank Ken & Colleen Bryson, Judy Formalarie, Sandy Matsen, John McAleer, Todd Rothermel, and Joanne Rupp for contributing their time and talents to our Holy Week and Easter worship services.



Please continue to support Zion's ministries with your offerings and prayers.

Financial contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.



The Tag Sale is coming on April 24th! Please bring your donations to the CEB any time. Please, no books or clothing. Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items during the week prior to the sale and many will be needed at the sale to help move, set up and sell on April 24th. Please use the link sent from the Parish Office if you can help.



Zion's 4th-12th graders and their parents are needed to staff the concessions table at the Tag Sale. If your family can help, please contact the Parish Office to sign up. Shifts are 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.



First Communion classes began this morning on Zoom. The group will meet four times on Sunday mornings in April and May, and the sacrament of First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, May 16th.



Give to Zion from your phone! Scan the QR code above to be directed to Tithely's electronic giving site.



Family Promise guests are currently being housed at area hotels as COVID does not permit them to stay in churches. In lieu of hosting this year, we are giving members the opportunity to support Family Promise by purchasing gift cards from Shop Rite or Walmart to be given to the guests. If you would like to help, please drop off your gift cards in the Parish Office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Tuesday-Friday.

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.

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.

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.

²¹My 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.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

- + **Dillon**, *who continues his healing.*
- + **The Dumont and Herder families**, *who are mourning the loss of Eric Dumont.*
- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Donna Hunter**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Eleanor Kover**, *who will begin radiation treatments on March 15th.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*
- + **Paul Zerfas**, *who has undergone his second stem cell transplant.*

Friends and Family

- + **Ralph Cortese**, *brother of Angela Sztuk, who has cancer and is recovering from surgery.*
- + **Marianna Evanouskas**, *sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from a lumpectomy.*
- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering from a stroke, is limited in verbal expression and needs daily assistance.*
- + **Ken**, *father of Amanda Smith, who has been diagnosed with cancer.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is struggling with Parkinson's disease.*
- + **Maryellen**, *relative of Linda & Greg Smith, who is undergoing testing for breast cancer.*
- + **Susan Miluk**, *sister of Jim Dierking, who is recovering from COVID-19 and undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma.*
- + **Lonn Mullen**, *friend of Eric Evers, who is recovering from surgery for bile duct cancer.*
- + **Nikki**, *relative of Judy Formalarie, who is hospitalized with a high white blood cell count.*
- + **Jim Price**, *friend of Jim & Linda Dierking, who is recovering from surgery for a malignant melanoma.*
- + **Parker Smith**, *grandson of Linda & Greg Smith, who continues to be monitored for low oxygen levels while sleeping.*

Those in the Armed Services

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested prayer for military members:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.