



## *Ascension Lutheran Church*

*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*

*(clclutheran.org)*

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### **The First Sunday After Easter**

**April 28, 2019**

*“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)*

**PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 98 (page 144, The Lutheran Hymnal)**

**HYMN 733 (Worship Supplement) “This Joyful Eastertide”**

**A Service Of Word & Sacrament, setting 2 (page 12, Worship Supplement)**

**FIRST LESSON: Revelation 1:4-18**

<sup>4</sup> John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. <sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*” says the Lord, “who is

and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” <sup>9</sup> I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup> His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup> He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

**Responsive Reading from Psalm 116**

**L: I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.**

**C: BECAUSE HE TURNED HIS EAR TO ME, I WILL CALL ON HIM AS LONG AS I LIVE.**

**L: The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.**

**C: THE LORD PROTECTS THE SIMPLEHEARTED; WHEN I WAS IN GREAT NEED, HE SAVED ME.**

**L: Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.**

**C: FOR YOU, O LORD, HAVE DELIVERED MY SOUL FROM DEATH, MY EYES FROM TEARS, MY FEET FROM STUMBLING,**

**L: that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

**C: O LORD, TRULY I AM YOUR SERVANT; I AM YOUR SERVANT, THE SON OF YOUR MAIDSERVANT; YOU HAVE FREED ME FROM MY CHAINS.**

**SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: John 20:19-31 *rise***

<sup>19</sup> Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.” <sup>20</sup> When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My

side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”<sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

The Apostles’ Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 190 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Christ The Lord Is Risen Again*”

SERMON: Acts 5:12, 17-32

### **KEEP STANDING AND SPEAKING THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE!**

**12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. ... 17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.” 21 And when they heard *that*, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, 23 saying, “Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!” 24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. 25 So one came and told them, saying, “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!” 26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” 29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The**

**God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”**

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 767 (Worship Supplement) “*Church Of God, Elect And Glorious*”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, & THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 451 (stand for last verse) (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Stand Up! – Stand Up For Jesus*”

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WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex. TODAY our usher is Rick Louderman. In our Bible Study we’re on Revelation 12:11.

NACC SERVICE: 3:00 PM; BRC SERVICE: 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY: NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY: 10:10 AM.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP: 10:00 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski. We have a VOTERS MEETING immediately following our church service.

WE HAVE our ASCENSION DAY SERVICE on THURSDAY, MAY 30, at 7:30 PM.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering on Maundy Thursday was \$893.00, and our attendance was 10. Our offering on Good Friday was \$92.00, and our attendance was 10. Our offering last Sunday (Easter) was \$1,382.00 (needed each week: \$1,157.00), and our attendance was 25. Our general fund balance as of last Sunday was \$601.00. We are currently one mortgage payment behind.

WE HAVE A CHURCH WORK DAY IN THREE WEEKS, on SUNDAY, MAY 19.

CLC NEWS: Our CLC Boards meet on Monday and Tuesday, April 29-30, and the Coordinating Council meets on Wednesday, May 1. The Call Committee will meet Wednesday evening to assign calls to pastoral and teaching candidates. There is one seminary graduate this year: Sam Naumann, and two graduates from the teaching program: Nathan Buck and June Schmid. Five congregations have submitted calls for a pastoral candidate: Trinity, Spokane, WA; Bethel, Morris, MN; Resurrection, Corpus Christi, TX; and Redeemer, Bowdle, SD/Zion, Ipswich, SD (joint parish). Two calls have been submitted for a teacher graduate: St. John’s, Okabena, MN, and Valley Bible Academy (St. John’s), Clarkston, WA.