



Second Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023 • 10:00am

Saint John's Lutheran Church
The North American Lutheran Church
505 South Park Street, Asheboro, NC
336-625-4263

www.stjohnsasheboro.org

 [StJohnslutheranAsheboroNC](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnslutheranAsheboroNC)

Molly Neal, Organist and Choir Director

Kim Walker, Secretary (secretarystjohnsasheboro@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 10:00AM-2:00PM

**Service can be heard on FM RADIO 98.9 and
seen LIVE on church Face Book page and YouTube.**



Setting 4, Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Our Mission: Worshipping and Witnessing for Christ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "To Thine Be the Glory"

The assembly is invited to stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P 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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.

Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!".....ELW#369

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: And also, with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:29-42

²⁹Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” ³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*

praise God | in the heights.

²Praise the Lord | all you angels;*

sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

³Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;*

sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens, *

and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD;*

who commanded, and they | were created.

⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;*

giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,*

you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog, *

tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

⁹mountains | and all hills, *

fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle, *

creeping things and | flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, *

princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²young | men and maidens, *

old and | young together.

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD, *

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, *

the children of Israel, a people who are the Lord. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia"

P.151

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to St. John

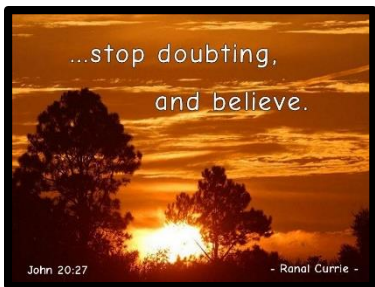
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Penny Crooks



SERMON: "Dealing with Doubts"

Alan Gates

The assembly stands.

THE 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

Response: L: Lord in your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**

Worshippers may kneel (or sit).

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Worshippers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ” or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING: *Please place Care Cards in the offering plate. The care cards are in the pews and include communion participation, prayer requests, and other important information. You can use one card for a couple or family if you choose.*

ANTHEM: “The Old Rugged Cross”

OFFERTORY: ““Let the Vineyards”

ELW#182

OFFERING PRAYER:

God of mercy and grace, **C: the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE

P.152 & P.153

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

P.153

LORD'S PRAYER

P.154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God! **Thanks be to God!**
We welcome to the Lord's Table all who are baptized and believe that Jesus offers his body and blood to sinners. Ushers will direct you. The inner circle of communion cups is grape juice; all other cups are wine. You may also drink from the common cup by looking toward the Assistant Minister. Children who do not yet commune may fold their hands at the rail to receive a blessing. If you cannot go forward for communion please let an usher know so that they may assist and bring communion to you..

COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God” **P.154**

COMMUNION HYMN: “We Walk by Faith”**ELW#635**

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: “Blessed Assurance”**ELW#638**

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Today / April 16th
8:45AM Coffee & Fellowship
9AM: Sunday School
10AM: Service of Worship

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God our risen Saviour
and in honor of my mom’s 91st birthday by Michele Dawes.*

In Service Sunday / April 16th

Marj Murdock / Doreen Wilburn	Altar Guild
Michele Dawes	Greeter
Team 3	Ushers
Doreen Wilburn & Kim Kelly	Nursery
Molly Neal	Organist
Liam Wittenberg / Dani Jaeck	Acolyte, Crucifer
Betsy Wittenberg	Asst. Minister
Penny Crooks	Children's Sermon
Doug Schultz	Witness
Mike & Sharon Harrelson	Counting



BIRTHDAYS from April 17th thru 26th

17 Bill Wittenberg 21 Clarence Pugh / Chad Smalley

ANNIVERSARIES from April 17th thru 26th

18 Penny & Joshua Crooks

THIS WEEK

Monday / April 17th

1pm: Fellowship Bridge

Tuesday / April 18th

6:30pm: ESL

Wednesday / April 19th

10:30am: Bible Study

6pm: Choir Practice

Thursday / April 20th

5pm: Youth & Family Mtg

6pm: American Heritage Girls

6:30pm: ESL

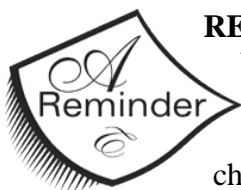
REMINDERS & SAVE THE DATE(S):

April 23, 2023, Third Sunday of Easter / Alan Gates

Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-14; 1 Pete 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

In Service Next Sunday / April 23rd

Marj Murdock / Doreen Wilburn	Altar Guild
Sharon Seitz	Greeter
Team 4	Ushers
Penny Crooks / Michele Dawes	Nursery
Molly Neal	Organist
Ermalyn Jaeck / Katie Dawes	Acolyte, Crucifer
Amy Harrelson	Asst. Minister
Joan Wilson	Children's Sermon
Sharon Seitz	Witness
Mike & Sharon Harrelson	Counting



REQUEST from Property Committee Approved by the Council

We are asking that no one bring /order or buy items for the church without contacting the property committee for permission. Likewise, it is important that no one takes / leaves or borrows items from the church without asking the Property committee. This is happening frequently, and it has caused disorganization / expenses that need to be stopped. We truly appreciate your attention to this and your understanding of the issue. Thank you

Property Committee Chair

Please send any photos you may have from the Easter activities by 4/24. Thank you.



Please come and join the celebration of Craig Wolfe's 80th Birthday Sunday / May 28th 11:15am / Fellowship Hall Meal and cake following worship service and time to visit with Craig and family.

**Please let Pam know if you will be attending for planning purposes.
(ph # 336-402-3691 or email 47chickenana@gmail.com)**



Community, Nation & World

Prayers for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria..

Veterans, current military enlisted and their families

Leaders of our Country

Ukrainians / Russians

Victory Missions International

Rev. Samar Ghandour and family

Ft. Wainwright

NALC Reformation

LC Persecuted Christians

Naomi Heart Missions / Kristi Ward

St. John's Church Council &

Call Committee

St. John's Family:

Prayers for Sara Rhyne's family in this time of loss..

Pat McGinn

Marielle Jaeck

Cynthia Allen

Bill Sheffield

Peggy Sholar (home)

Robert & Lynn Smith

Earl DeLooze,

Ed Tanzman

Craig Wolfe

Melinda Swain

Friends and Family of the

Congregation:

Jill Spivey / Cancer (friend of Leslie Smith)

Beverly Decker (visitor recently had a heart attach ~ Sharon Seitz)

Roxanna Bryant (2 brain bleeds / successful repair) Tania Kirkpatrick

Angie Manring / surgery (Bill Sheffield)

Anita Crooks (fell and fractured hip / femur) (Crook Family)

Jennifer Theilman and the girls

Kim (friend of Bettina)

Tresa Sheffield (Bill Sheffield)

Susan Roses (grandmother of Madeline & Dorothy Arbaiza)

Jeanette M. Brower (Bill Sheffield)

Lee H. Sheffield (Bill Sheffield)

Jorge Gutierrez-Lukemia (friend of Olivia Smith)

Joyce Parsons (Bill Sheffield)

Sheryl Barlow (Helen Kluttz daughter)

Katherine Vann (cancer / Kate Sefick cousin)

Gregory Coward (knee surgery)

Tristan Shepherd at Ft. Wainwright, AKIvey

Nhena and Shamael [Ginna Schwartz granddaughter and daughter]

Theo Cook (Karen Wilke nieces' baby)

Melissa Butner, aggressive breast cancer (Wittenberg family)

Katie Stone

Carolyn Hardage & family (Pam Wolfe)

Kevin & Sharon McGinn

Janet Moses (Kenny & Gidget Kidd)

Greg Seabolt (Kenny & Gidget Kidd)

Sherry Johnson (Kenny & Gidget Kidd)

Sarah Sheffield (Bill Sheffield)

Chad Brown (Vickie Lorimer)

Chris (Laura's friend)

Melvin Wolfe surgery at VA hospital in Durham (Craig Wolfe brother)

Hazel Hayes Family (Michele Dawes mom)

George Singleten (surgery for throat cancer) / Vanessa Ornelas

Lynn Graham (Cancer)/Bill Sheffield

Laurie Scott / cancer (Kim Kelly cousin)

Trudi Freemon (Ed Tanzman)

Bruce Kyles cancer (friend of Kathy Chriscoe)

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTINAL

Second Sunday of Easter – April 16, 2023

“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.’” -**John 20:27-29**-

So often the disciple Thomas gets a bad reputation. He is seen as being foolish and labeled as “Doubting Thomas.” Those are unfair assumptions made of Thomas. He was not with the other disciples in the upper room, the first time the risen Jesus had appeared to them. Is it really any wonder that Thomas would have a hard time believing his fellow disciples that they had seen Jesus alive? As far as Thomas and the others were aware, dead people tend to stay dead. You and I wouldn’t have acted any differently than Thomas.

No doubt that Thomas believed in the risen Lord and served as one of the greatest leaders and pillars of the early Christian Church. In fact, when Jesus had been informed of Lazarus’ death, the disciples were hesitant to return to Jerusalem because they were afraid of the Jews. It was Thomas who said, “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (see **Jn. 11:11-16**).

Thomas did believe in his risen Lord. He was still in a deep state of grief, so much so that it overshadowed the truth. He allowed unbelief to cloud his faith. It isn’t anything new that we human beings like to have physical proof of something. The other disciples had seen Jesus eight days earlier. Jesus invited them to touch him and see for themselves that he was not a ghost; he was in the flesh, risen from the dead. Thomas needed that. So Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds. And as Thomas did, he believed. Thomas’ faith was reignited as he exclaimed, “**My Lord and my God!**” (v. 28) We need that reignition of faith, too.

We need daily reminders that our sins are forgiven. God reminds us that we can’t save ourselves. We need Jesus to cash that in for us. Like Thomas, we need our faith reignited.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive us when doubt and fear begin to overshadow the truth and our faith. Thank you for giving us faith to believe and trust in your promises. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Peace Be With You

Find the **25 bold** words from *John 20:19-23* (ESV)

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

On the **evening** of that day, the first day of the **week**, the doors being locked where the **disciples** were for fear of the **Jews**, **Jesus** came and **stood** among them and said to them, “**Peace** be with you.” When he had said this, he **showed** them **his hands** and his side. Then the disciples were **glad** when they saw the **Lord**. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the **Father** has **sent** me, even so I am **sending** you.” And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is **withheld**.”