

Second Sunday of Easter
St. Mark
April 7, 2024

Prelude – Vickie Sowers, *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Opening Song – *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ELW 363

- 1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

- 2 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from the Light to whom we give
laud and praise undying.
- 3 Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strain
Jesus' resurrection!
- 4 Neither could the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own,
you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore
passes human knowing.
- 5 Alleluia! now we cry
to our Lord immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia! with the Son
God the Father praising;
Alleluia! yet again
to the Spirit raising.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also, with you.**

Kyrie – ELW 120

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen, amen.**

Hymn of Praise – *This is the Feast*

ELW p. 122

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

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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.

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

Psalm: Psalm 133

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¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

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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.

^{2:1}My 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. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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The Holy Gospel according John the 20th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Wanda Childs

Prayers of the People

Response: God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

Offertory

Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Blessing

God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and † give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: *Thine Is the Glory*

ELW 376

1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

2 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;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Vickie Sowers – *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

Pastor Parish Office Hours This week: Wednesday, 4/10/24, 12:45-3:45 pm

In addition to these office hours, Pastor Wanda is also available to meet with anyone by appointment.
(Text or call 304.920.5965)

An Invitation - Holy Communion: All are welcome to this table. Whether you belong to this church, or another church, or no church at all, the gift of this bread and wine, and Christ's real presence are for us all. Your Children are welcome. You do not need to be a certain age to receive the gift of God at this table. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Crossing your arms in front of your chest (sign language for love) will let us know you would like a blessing. Please let the usher know if you would like communion brought to you. We also celebrate the gifts of God's grace and love

in **Holy Baptism**. If you have not been Baptized and would like to be, please contact the church office to visit with our pastor. The Gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is ready!
Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life
through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Would you be willing to give a little of your time to support your church? Nadine Rutrough has served as treasurer at St. Mark for many years and is seeking to pass the torch. The treasurer simply collects, records and deposits the weekly offerings. If you might be willing to serve, please see Pastor Wanda or any of the council members!

Prayers for the People: Wayne Pennell, husband of BJ Bauermeister; Joe Sowers, husband of Vickie, Luca Gucciardo, son Of Michael, owner of Mickey G's; Keel Frost, friend of the Gardner's granddaughter, Autumn Scott, granddaughter of Rosemary Wyman; Nancy Conduff, daughter of Nadine Rutrough; Roger Slusher, husband of Leslie

"Lunch with Lutherans" Noon on Thursday, April 11th at St. Mark. Bring your lunch and a friend if you like. We hope you will be able to attend. Pastor Wanda will share a devotion.

Floyd Empty Bowls April 28th, 11 am – 2 pm, Floyd County High School-Annual fundraiser for Floyd Backpack Program which provides food for Floyd County children during the weekends. You will receive a bowl crafted by a local potter, with soup, bread, drink and dessert. Tickets are available at multiple locations in Floyd or online at www.facebook.com/FloydBackPack/ \$25-adults, \$10-children ages 6-12 with no bowl. Free-children under age 5 with no bowl.

Welcoming Statement - *The Floyd-Willis Parish recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and welcome into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care, embracing the beauty and diversity of all God's creatures. We believe that through our openness we all grow in faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.*