



"Put your finger here,  
see my hands.

Reach out your hand  
and put it into my side.  
Do not doubt, but believe."

John 20:27, nrsv

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church  
Saturday, April 6, 2024



[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)

419-836-5514

-----  
**Second Saturday of Easter**

**April 6, 2024**  
-----

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

**How Majestic is Your Name**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify your name  
Prince of peace, Mighty God, O Lord, God Almighty

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: God of resurrection,

**C: we confess our need for new life. We trade abundant living for a cheap imitation. We take shortcuts on our way to where we are going. We step on others in the process and trip over ourselves trying to find our own happiness in life. God, we need a resurrection. We need to be pulled from this life into a new existence where love guides our actions and peace lives in our heart.**

P: Hear the Good News: By the grace of God you are forgiven and loved. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our new beginning as the old things die and we are made new. Death no longer rules us as we look forward to abundant life now and life with our Creator in the age to come. Praise God for resurrection life!

**C: Amen**

**FIRST READING**

**Acts 4:31-35**

Now 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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

## **SECOND READING**

**1 John 1:1- 2:2**

We 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— this 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— we 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. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This 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. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but 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.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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; and 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**

When 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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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." A 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." Then 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." 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 come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Shawn O'Brien**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**All: I have faith in God, in response to overwhelming love.**

**I believe God created me and all I have,  
and has given me gifts beyond measure.**

**I have faith in Jesus, who emptied himself out of great love for me.  
I believe Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered death and the  
power of evil, and was raised to life on the third day.**

**His death is mine and his resurrection is mine.**

**New life is a gift because of Jesus' words and work.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to overwhelming love.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is present among us  
and lives within each person.**

**The Spirit calls people through the Gospel  
and creates and builds the church of Christ.**

**Through the power of the Spirit,**

**I have power to stand in strength against all adversity.**

**I believe Jesus is preparing a place for me  
and will come again to take me to be with him. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** God of Grace,

**C:** hear our prayer.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Risen One,

**C: 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.**

## **OFFERING SONG**

**Once Again**

Jesus Christ...I think upon Your sacrifice  
You became nothing...poured out to death.  
Many times... I've wondered at your gift of life and  
I'm in that place once again...I'm in that place once again

### **CHORUS**

**And once again I look upon the cross where You died  
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside  
Once again I thank You...Once again I pour out my life**

Now You are...exalted to the highest place  
King of the heavens...where one day I'll bow  
But for now...I'll marvel at Your saving grace and  
I'm full of praise once again...I'm full of praise once again

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

P: We are resurrection people.

**All: We are here because Jesus is the Good News for all people.**

P: He took our guilt and shame and turned it around through his dying and rising for us.

**All: Now, we are a part of a new people in Christ, and we come to celebrate his resurrection presence.**

P: Jesus was broken for us and by his cross healed.

**All: He rose from the grave to unleash new life in the world.**

P: 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**

**ALL: 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**

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**



***Welcome!*** St. John practices “open communion”.

All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

**C: Amen**

## **SENDING SONG**

## **Christ is Risen**

Christ is risen, sing alleluia. Christ is risen, sing alleluia.  
Open wide the door is standing. From the grave new life is springing.  
He was dead, now he's living. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is risen, sing alleluia. Christ is risen, sing alleluia.  
Open wide the door is standing. From the grave new life is springing.  
He was dead, now he's living. Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **DISSMISAL**

P: Go in peace. Rejoice and Be Glad.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



Williston, Ohio 43468  
(419) 836-5514  
Pastor Shawn O'Brien  
[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)

Email: [office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston.org)

***We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.  
We are... "creating and nurturing life changing relationships  
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ, so that we may grow in  
faith, serve God,  
and serve our neighbor."***

Worship: Saturday 5:00 PM  
Sunday Worship 9:45 AM  
Sunday School for the whole family on the First Sunday  
of each month at 8:30 AM

**Seven Faith Practices**

I will strive to...

1. **PRAY** daily
2. **WORSHIP** weekly
3. **READ** and study the Bible
4. **SERVE** at and beyond St. John
5. **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus
6. **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources
7. **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth in others



Join our Facebook page for news and updates!  
**St John Lutheran Church-Williston**  
Also, visit our website at [www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)  
**For news, bulletins, newsletters, online giving,  
calendars and more!**