

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

April 8, 2018 – 9:00 A.M.

AS WE GATHER – Thomas is seldom remembered for anything other than his doubt. In our quest to find relatable biblical characters, we often leave Thomas as a man who needed evidence—proof. We may miss his bold confession: “My Lord and my God!” While the other ten disciples had seen Jesus eight days earlier, none of them confessed as Thomas did. And none of them believed until Jesus appeared to them and spoke His Word to them. Focus today not on Thomas’s doubt but rather on his confession of faith.

WELCOME (*Worshippers greet one another.*) (*Stand.*)

OPENING SONG: “All Creatures of Our God and King” (*See screen.*)

THE INVOCATION (*See screen.*)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES (*See screen.*)

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: He brings us light

People: that shines in our darkness.

Pastor: He brings us life

People: that death cannot overcome.

Pastor: God is light.

People: In Him there is no darkness at all.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*1 John 1:8, 9; 2:1–2*)

(*See screen.*)

Pastor: John writes, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” Let us consider our sins so that we do not deceive ourselves with false righteousness. Heavenly Father,

People: we have chosen darkness instead of light. We have chosen death instead of life. Forgive us. Let Your light and life come to us again.

(Continued)

Pastor: John also writes, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Having heard your confession, and trusting in God’s Word and promises, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of the risen Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. “We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

THE SALUTATION *(See screen.)*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(See screen.)*

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You sent Your Son to be our light and our life. Shine His light into our darkness, and comfort us with the hope of resurrection, that we may share His light and life throughout the world; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated.)

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35 (ESV)

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2 (ESV)

(Stand.)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 (ESV)

(Be seated.)

SERMON SONG: “Nothing without You” *(See screen.)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Text: John 20:19-31

(Stand.)

NICENE CREED

(Be seated.)

THE OFFERING

(Note to our visitors: You are our guests this morning! Please do not feel the need to make a contribution to our Offering. We would ask all visitors and members to sign the Register Pad as the Offering is being collected. Also, Prayer Cards are available in the pew racks for special intercessions during the time of congregational prayer.)

Offering Song (Congregation): “Jesus Messiah” *(See screen.)*

FOR ALL WHO DESIRE TO RECEIVE THE LORD’S SUPPER

*We believe that Christ’s Body and Blood is present in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. In this sacred meal Jesus gives Himself in love to His Church to build us up in faith, hope and love. Since Christ is truly present, the Sacrament is not to be received in a careless or indifferent manner. St. Paul writes: “Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **Examine yourselves**, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11.27-28)*

We believe that such self-examination necessarily includes the following points: 1) Do I believe that the only true God is the Triune God, Three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, within One Divine Being? 2) Do I humbly acknowledge before God that I am indeed a sinner in need of His grace? 3) Do I believe that Jesus Christ the Son of God is my personal Lord and Savior? 4) Do I believe that in this Sacrament Christ is truly present for me for the forgiveness of my sins? 5) Do I have a sincere desire, with God’s help, to live a life that is pleasing to Him?

For those who can answer these questions in the affirmative, we welcome you to join us at the Lord’s Table. For those who have a different religious understanding, or are unclear as to the points listed above, we ask that you talk to the pastor before receiving the Sacrament.

(Stand.)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(See screen.)*

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, we live in a world of darkness where many are plagued by shame, abuse, neglect, and hatred. Shine Your light into the dark corners of our hearts that we always walk in fellowship with You. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, we live in a world of death where threats of war, terrorism, disease, and disasters constantly abound. But You are the God of life. In the midst of all this death, bring the hope and comfort of Christ’s resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

(Continued)

Pastor: Lord, there are many who do not know the joy of Your light and life and many who refuse to believe the power of Your resurrection unless they can see or experience something profound. Lead them to confess alongside Thomas, “My Lord and my God!” Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, send healing and care to all who are sick, injured, and recovering. Strengthen them with Your healing hand, and bring them the joy of fellowship we have in the communion of saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, many grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life, which is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, every good and perfect gift comes from You. We thank You for the blessings You have poured out upon us. We rejoice with those who rejoice. Grant that our rejoicing draw us back to the Good News of Your light and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, who has taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *(See screen.)*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *(Revelation 22:20)*

THE DISTRIBUTION *(Be seated.)*

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“One Thing Remains” (*See screen.*)

“Lord, I Need You” (*See screen.*)

“Stronger” (*See screen.*)

(Stand.)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING (*See screen.*)

Assistant: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the light and life to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith so that we may always be prepared to confess You as Lord and God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION (*See screen.*)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “Christ Is Risen” (*See screen.*)

(Be seated.)

(Dismissal of Children for Sunday School)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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"One Thing Remains" (See screen.)

"Lord, I Need You" (See screen.)

"Stronger" (See screen.)

(Stand.)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *(See screen.)*

THE BENEDICTION *(See screen.)*

CLOSING SONG: *"Christ Is Risen" (See screen.)*

(Be seated.)

(Dismissal of Children for Sunday School)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER PAGE – OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

April 8, 2018 (*Added this week)

Family of Aric Tobritzhofer, grandson of Ken & Linda Veith who passed away on March 27th*
Leona Volkert, sister of Viola Miller and sister-in-law of Mary Lou Volkert, cancer*
Family of Sandy Bushinger, daughter of Hubert Schiell, cancer*
Maron Ackerman, mother of Brenda Richert and grandmother of Alicia, Aaron & Tyler,
having back surgery on April 13th*

Family of Rosemary St. George, sister of Cheryl Richert, who passed away on Good Friday
Family of Mary Anderson, neighbor of Hundertmarks, who passed away recently
Patrick Love, grandson of Kathy Bauer, for strength & spiritual guidance

Janice Goebel, sister of Phyllis Richert, recovery from foot surgery
Angie Graves, family friend of Jay & Autumn Zahn, recovering from open heart surgery (She needs a heart transplant to survive long term and is on the waiting list. Pray for complete recovery and long life.)
Derek Nelson, recovering at home after being struck by a car
Madeline Nelson, prayers for emotional and spiritual strength for her
Loren Richert, recovering from a stroke
Jamie Grenier, husband of Cyndi Grenier, health & healing after heart procedure
Deb Zwickey, friend of Gayle Schneider, for relief of pain & healing after surgery
Kathy Hatanpaa, cousin of Lois Fritsche, A.L.S.
Cole Wegner, son of Jenny Veith's cousin, Cystic Fibrosis
Jeff Riemenschneider, brother of Autumn Zahn, Parkinson's
Kellen Giddings, friend of Maverick Schiltgen, recovery from a brain tumor
Grace Hedtke, Melissa Oberdeck's Godchild, bone tumor
Breck Fewer, son of Joe & Lindsey Fewer, recovering from heart surgery

LaDonna Freitag, daughter of Faye Freitag-Schiell, for health & healing
Laurel Bonine, for health and healing
Holly Bonine, for health and healing
Melissa Oberdeck, for health & healing
Jessica Polinske, for health and healing

Beth Larson, daughter-in-law of Ron & Joanne Larson, health & healing (brain tumor)
Alicia Cleveland, daughter of Betty Richert, Muscular Dystrophy & Leukemia
Barbie Erickson, friend of the Swanson family, cancer
Loretta Freitag, sister of Faye Freitag-Schiell, cancer
Karen Carter, niece of Cheryl Richert, kidney cancer
John Schmidt, treatment for cancer
Greg Rubenstein, husband of Marlys Albrecht, good health & healing (cancer free)
Carl Benning (requested by Alicia Benning), cancer
Nancy Wesley, friend of Gayle Schneider, treatment for recurrence of cancer
Mike Morley, friend of Bruce Albrecht, good health after cancer treatment
Anita Bruch, lymphoma cancer
Darlene O'Malley, grandmother of Angie Engen, Cancer
Richard Miller, Viola Miller's grandson, treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
Maureen Busacker, sister-in-law of Dale & Janel Busacker, cancer
Teresa Kopps, spiritual blessings and successful treatment of Stage 4 cancer
Tim Sachi, friend of Steve & Sharon Wellner, cancer
Don Goodwin, son-in-law of Stan Simkins, cancer
Jerry Mueller, son of Evie Mueller, health & healing (cancer free at this time)
Jason Bauer, nephew of Kathy Bauer, cancer
Sue Dickey, friend of Kathy Bauer, cancer
Marilyn Stalhiem, aunt of Linda Veith, cancer

If you would like to include the needs of a sick relative or friend in our weekly Prayer Page, call the church office at (651) 436-3357, or submit the request via E-mail: stpeter@stpeterafton.org by Wednesday afternoon. Prayer requests will be kept on our list for two months unless otherwise directed. To request a prayer for our "Prayer Chain" that you would like us to send out via E-mail, call the church office. If anyone would like to be added to this list, call the church office with your E-mail.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE: COFFEE HOST: Linda Craig; USHERS: Rick Bauer, Elder; Travis Swanson; Don Kosen; Donna Kosen; Dawn Plunkett; ACOLYTE: Lillian Pryce; READER: Betsy Hundertmark; GREETERS: (Open).

DCE TONY ENGEN will be on vacation April 13th-18th.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING will be held on Sunday, April 22nd, 10:30 a.m. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. (No Bible Class that day.) **COMMITTEE REPORTS** are due in the church office by Monday, April 9th.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND – We will work a shift on Friday, April 13th, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sign up on the sheet on the kiosk. Questions, call Cheryl Schmidt

SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL: Thursday, April 26, at Noon! Bring a friend for lunch and music! We hope to see a lot of friends and neighbors and YOU! Postcard invitations for you to send are available in the narthex today. Please RSVP by April 20 to (651) 436-3357 or stpeter@stpeterafton.org. If you need a ride, let us know. We will need help that day and there will be sign-up sheets for food donations. Questions? Call Linda Craig

TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASSES will begin again this Tuesday, April 10th; 7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Machine Shed in Lake Elmo; and 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the church.

RECEPTION FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES! On Sunday, April 22nd we will honor the young people of St. Peter graduating from college with a special Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Both Christy Peterson and Tess Stage will graduate from Concordia University St. Paul. Please plan to spend a few minutes with the girls! There will also be a basket for cards or notes. If you are or know of any other college graduates of our St. Peter family, please let the church office know.

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN? Please contact Pastor Drews, Cheryl Richert, Gayle Schneider or any of the Elders with your request. We will send an e-mail for you so that we can pray for that individual's needs. There is power in prayer! If you would like to be a part of this Prayer Chain, provide Cheryl with your e-mail address.

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE WITH COMMUNION will be held on Wednesday 6:30–7:00 p.m., and **WEEKDAY/CONFIRMATION CLASSES** are 7:00-8:00 p.m.

ST. PETER WILL HOST THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE on Monday, April 30th, from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Please say “Yes!” when you are called to help with making this day run smoothly. Any questions, call Peggy Oehlke

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA IS THE MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MARCH & APRIL. See the mission board in the narthex for more information. Continue to pray for efforts to build Godly unity within the global church and towards the North Korean people. If you would like to support this Mission-of-the-Month, there are special Mission envelopes in your offering envelope box, in the pews, or on the Mission Board.

ATTENTION 5TH-12TH GRADERS!! CATALYST is held the third Friday of the month! (Monthly Youth Night): On April 20th, from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. come join us for Catalyst. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus tells us to seek God’s kingdom above all else. At Catalyst this is exactly what we will be doing! Come for a night of worship, prayer, games, music, and friendship. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. As always, please bring your friends!

MUSIC OF OUR LIVES! – Favorites of P & V (Pete & Virgil) - Join us on April 21st, 7:00 p.m., at the Parish Hall for an evening of music. We will be playing many of our favorite songs. There will be music everyone can appreciate. The selections for the night are an eclectic mix of styles. The songs were originally performed by groups ranging from Sons of the Pioneers to Johnny Cash to Gerry and the Pacemakers to Bread among others. No charge for the evening, but a free will offering will be taken to support Breast Cancer Research at the University of Minnesota. Checks should be made out to the **University of Minnesota Foundation**. In the memo section, add **Fund 11449** – Breast Cancer Research Fund.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH, there will be a short presentation after the worship service from Vince Setten of **GIDEON’S INTERNATIONAL**. A door offering will be taken following the presentation.

THANK YOU to everyone who gave donations or helped in any way to make the youth Easter Breakfast fundraiser a success.