

"DO NOT DOUBT BUT
BELIEVE!"

JOHN 20:27, NRSV

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Worship Online and In Person**

- + **8:00 am** Online Worship available. Our online worship is shared in email, Facebook, and on the FELC web page.
- + **9:00 am** Gathered Worship in sanctuary
- + **10:30am** Virtual coffee hour, Sunday School
- + **11:00am** Inspire Bible Study

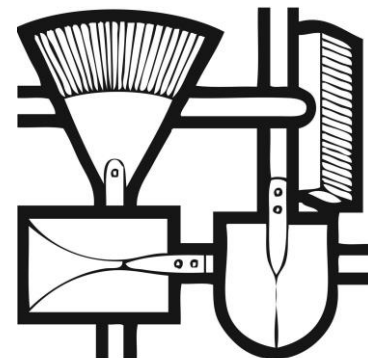
For our gathered worship, masks that cover nose and mouth are required. Masks are available if you forget yours – an usher can assist you. We continue to practice social distancing and other precautions.

SIGN UP FOR GATHERED WORSHIP

Please continue to sign up for Sunday in-person worship. Links to the sign-up are included in the online midweek newsletter. Anyone without access to the internet or email can call the church office and Lois will be able to sign up for you. The sign-ups will close at 8am on Sundays.

We have capped the signups at 40 people. This will leave room for worship leaders and 5 walk-up spots.

THE BLOOD DRIVE scheduled for April 16th has been **cancelled**.



**HELP NEEDED SATURDAY, APRIL 17th
9am**

MULCH will be delivered this week. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 17th at 9am to apply the mulch around the flower beds of the church. Bring yard tools.

If you have any questions, contact Jon Dewey at 648-7555.

EVENTS AT FIRST ENGLISH

Sunday, April 11

- 8:00 am Online Worship available
- 9:00 am Gathered Worship in sanctuary
- 10:30 am Sunday School, Virtual
Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am "Inspire" Bible Study

Monday, April 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm Church Council

Tuesday, April 13

- 5:30-7pm Post-Partum Support Group
- 6:30 pm "Encourage"

Thursday, April 15

- 8:30 am Snack Packs
- 7:00 pm Worship Committee

Saturday, April 17

- 9:00 am Mulching project

Sunday, April 18

- 8:00 am Online Worship available
- 9:00 am Gathered Worship in sanctuary
- 10:30 am Sunday School, Virtual
Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am "Inspire" Bible Study
- 1:00 pm Northern Conference
assembly
- 6:30 pm Youth Group

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COMMUNION AT HOME: We are providing at-home communion packages for the congregation. Congregation members may stop by the Prayer Chapel at FELC to pick up a communion package during office hours, Monday-Thursday 9am to 2pm.

Hospitalized This Week

OSF: Jon Davis

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or hear of a member who is, please let the church office know.

Prayer Requests: Requests for the prayer chain may be submitted by calling Martha Schmitt at 309-253-7783 or e-mail at prayer@felcpeoria.org.

In-Person Attendance

Maundy Thurs., April 1: 37
Good Friday, April 2: 34
Easter Sunday, April 4: 9am - 52;
11am - 99

THANK YOU

A SINCERE THANK YOU to all who helped plan and organize our various Holy Week and Easter worship services, in-person and online, and to those who served in our worship services. Easter Sunday was a wonderful morning, giving thanks for our Risen Lord.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Fresh flowers beautify our sanctuary for worship. Flowers can be donated in thanksgiving, as a memorial, or to commemorate an occasion.

We will not have the sign-up chart posted at this time. If you wish to donate flowers please call or email Lois in the church office to schedule a date. Cost for the 2 bouquets is \$30, payable to First English Lutheran Church.

GROW – CONNECT – PRAY

Join other FELC members and friends via Zoom for two weekly opportunities to strengthen your faith life.

"INSPIRE" Bible Study
Sunday mornings at 11am

"ENCOURAGE" Prayer and Conversation
Tuesday nights at 6:30pm

An invitation with the Zoom link for **Inspire** and **Encourage** is sent out to the FELC email list. If you have questions about the gatherings or Zoom, contact Pastor Ryan.

+ IF YOU DON'T HAVE INTERNET you can still call in to Zoom for Inspire or Encourage. Call the Zoom meeting dial-in number at the appointed time and enter meeting ID number and Password when prompted (see numbers below). You are then connected using audio only (no video).

Inspire

Dial In # 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 962 5416 0996
Password: 651112

Encourage

Dial In # 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 961 8829 1825
Password: 406005

GIVING AT FIRST ENGLISH

Thank you for your continued financial support. You can continue to send checks to church, use the tithe.ly app, Simply Giving, or sending donations through your bank.

Sunday School Families: In addition to your regular giving you can support **Compassion International** kids through tithe.ly ! Keep up on your Sunday School offerings by using the app.

For more information on any of these options, please contact the Church Office at 309-685-0337.

SNACK PACKS: Thank you to all who have brought in items or contributed for our Snack Pack ministry to Von Steuben Middle School.

Food Donations Needed

+ Fruit cups + Cookies (no nuts)
+ Oatmeal packets + Chips
+ Ramen noodle packets

Any other items you've been purchasing in the past are welcome.

Items can be dropped off during office hours Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm. Please contact Kathy Neptun with any questions:

kathy.neptun@felcpeoria.org

First English Lutheran Church

725 E. Forrest Hill Ave., Peoria, IL 61603 (309) 685-0337

Email: office@felcpeoria.org

Web site: www.felcpeoria.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-2pm

Pastor Ryan: Phone 815-222-5924 or ryan.anderson@felcpeoria.org

Worship at Home
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism:
We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life,
from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to
our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

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, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

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

Gospel: John 20:19-31

REFLECT

- Watch FELC or other worship videos online
- Read other devotional material
- Discuss Bible passages with your household

HYMN: ELW #635 *"We Walk by Faith"*

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:
4. For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.

5. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who
promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it
testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation.
Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole
creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of
your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and
breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit,
that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting,
suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in
our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR SENDING HOLY COMMUNION

As Holy Communion is sent out in this time of scattering, let us pray for the Body of Christ:

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament. Let your abiding presence, revealed in the breaking of the bread, strengthen us that we may withstand hardship and sorrow, live in hope of all your blessings to come, and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of Life, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

APRIL 11, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.



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APRIL 11, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Walk by Faith



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression "seeing is believing" mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done" (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, "Lord, I believe" (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Today's disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today's disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come "to see," to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

Pray: **Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is _____. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org