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*Second Sunday of Easter, April 24, 2022*

Greeting

Gathering Words:

Jesus came back! He did not leave us in our fear and confusion. He came and stood among us. He breathed upon us and put us at peace. Let us gather to praise him, to celebrate the resurrection and the promise of new life, eternal life in his name.

**Worship Music We Believe**

OPENING PRAYER

Breathe the breath of new life into us, O Lord, that we may fully feel the power of your love and the awesome glory of the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Prepare us to receive your blessing and then to go from this place to be a blessing to others in your name. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Verses 1, 2 & 4) #384

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Shirley and Ernie Dunkelberger

Rosemary Feister

Risa Overly

Tom Steffy

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 143: 13-21 (NIV)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC Mark Potts

SHARING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

What must be done to convince us of God’s unending love? What further proof do we need? We have only to look around us to see what the Lord has done. We have only to look to the One who poured out his life for us, who offered himself in our place, and whose Spirit casts out all doubt and fear. In response, let us offer our very selves, and the fruit of our lives and labor.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

In our songs and in our words, we give praise to you, Lord. In our worship, study, and service, we bless you. Loving God, you breathe life into our mortal bodies; you complete us and fill our every need. For all that you have done; for all that you have given to us, we worship you. With all that we are, and with all that we have, we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON John 20: 19-31 (NRSV)

HYMN OF PREPARATION Breathe on Me, Breath of God (Verses 1-3) #420

SERMON Believing is Seeing Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN God Be with You till We Meet Again (Verses 1-3) #672

BENEDICTION

Peace to you from the One who is and was and is to come. Grace and peace to you from the One who loves us and frees us, the One who gives us repentance and forgiveness. As God sent Jesus into the world, so the Spirit now sends us to continue God’s holy work. To God be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Brandy Ansel – surgery May 2nd Karl Haver – lung cancer

Family of Clara Boutelle Lamar Horst – surgery May 4th

Janie Buchter – anxiety Luke Mengel - stent procedure

Everleigh Sage Corwin – NICU Scott and Jacquie Sheely - stroke

Connie DeHaven -terminal cancer Peace in Ukraine

Chris Diehl – cancer Megan Weir – deployed

Cornette Evans – cancer Pauline Weitzel – fall recovery

Family of Georgine Grube Bonnie Wyniawkyj -family concerns

Family of Clyde Hartranft Family of Jack Zimmerman

Clark Harding - surgery Jonah Zink - stroke

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,365**

**OFFERING April 17th  $1,005**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO DATE     $21,840**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE            $26,607**

**BUDGET YTD +$4,767 Attendance – 48 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

Adult Sunday School – 1015 Sundays

Choir Practice – Mondays 1PM

Bible Study – 1000-1200 Tuesdays with fellowship

Girl Scouts – 1st Thursday of each month

Blessings of Hope – May 28th 1030-1100

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-6; Revelation 5:11-14;

John 21:1-19.

Believing is Seeing

Have friends ever said to you, “You’ve got to see this.” You listen with interest, even as you are trying to distinguish between what is hype and what is real.

It is not exactly right to say that you don’t believe the testimony of your friends. It is more that you don’t have any experience of your own to compare to theirs. In order to offer your own testimony, you need to have your own experience.

The disciples had an experience we probably wouldn’t want to share; at least initially. They are clustered in a room in Jerusalem because, we are told, they are afraid of the Jews. Jesus had been crucified.

In Psalm 145, God’s kingdom is described as everlasting. It didn’t seem like it. The psalmist also said that the Lord is trustworthy and lifts up those who are bowed down. Well, they were certainly bowed down! It seemed that God had abandoned them. As they sat in fear, suddenly, Jesus appeared right in the middle of their conversation. The disciples stared in disbelief. How could this have happened? The door was locked. Then Jesus spoke. He spoke with a calmness and assurance that only Jesus could speak, “Peace be with you.”

Their fear has been dispelled. Now that the power of God is more powerful than that of the Jews, of death, of anything humanity could do to them, the disciples can now rise to a new level of faith and action. Jesus speaks again. “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he stopped talking, he took a step back, drew in a deep breath, and slowly exhaled over the room: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Jesus connected believing and forgiveness. “If you forgive the sins of anyone they are forgiven [because of their faith]; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained [and remain unforgiven because of their unbelief].” Jesus has given them the Spirit of God, and they have been changed. They have been remade. And they have been sent. Any time the breath of God or the Spirit of God is given, things change. Believing lead to seeing; seeing things differently. Could that happen for us?

A week passes, and the disciples again gather together on the first day of the week. Thomas, who had not been present the previous week, expresses his doubts about what had happened. Thomas isn’t a bad guy. He isn’t particularly faithless. He merely wants to see what all the other disciples have already seen; he wants an encounter with the Risen Christ. Suddenly, Jesus appears. Joy once again fills the room at the presence of their risen Savior. Thomas exclaims, “My Lord and my God!” It is a confession not just of Jesus’ position of leadership over Thomas. It is a confession of Jesus’ deity. Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who have not seen but yet have believed. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus now breathes on us.

Sermon Quiz

1. In Psalm 145, God’s kingdom is described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and lifts up those who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ down.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ appeared in the upper room and said, “\_\_\_\_\_\_ be with you.”
4. Again he says, “\_\_\_\_ be with you. As the Father has \_\_\_ me, so I \_\_\_ you.”
5. Jesus connected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. A \_\_\_\_ passes and the disciples again gather, this time with \_\_\_\_\_\_ present.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wants to \_\_\_\_ what the other disciples have \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Thomas exclaims, “My \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_!”
9. Jesus pronounces a \_\_\_\_\_\_ on those who have not seen but yet have \_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Jesus now \_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_.

Last Week’s Sermon Quiz

1. In Psalm 118, the psalmist thanks God for answered prayer and salvation.
2. The stone rejected by the builder has become the cornerstone.
3. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
4. It was still dark when Mary Magdalene came and found the stone removed from the tomb.
5. She ran and told Peter and the other disciple that the body was gone.
6. When the other disciple entered the tomb, he saw and believed.
7. Jesus asked Mary why she was weeping.
8. She did not recognize Jesus until he called her by name.
9. Jesus told her not to touch him for things were different.
10. Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.”