SURE FOUNDATION LUTHERAN | Brandon, South Dakota

April 7, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

God's grace welcomes you, no matter who you are or where you're from—and so do we. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. By his perfect life and innocent death, he saved everyone from the ravages of sin and victoriously rose again to give eternal life to all. Jesus makes us special people, right with God and ready for life! We learn this from the Bible, God's authentic message of grace and guidance. Whether you are a long-time Christian or a curious observer with little religious background, we are delighted to share the message of God's grace with you. Please join our worship again.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Restrooms – are located in the entry hallway.

Connect Cards – can go in the offering plate as it goes around.

Offering – envelopes are included in this worship folder. This is one of several ways to give at Sure Foundation. If you desire to give online, visit surechurch.com/give and follow the self-guided set-up.

Communion – Sure Foundation practices what is called "member communion." We do this because from Scripture we are convinced that in communion we express unity of faith and doctrine. Not wanted to force a confession on anyone, we would ask that if you are not a member of a WELS/ELS church, that you would refrain from communion this morning.

CONNECT WITH US



Simply open the camera app on your phone and bring the QR Code into focus. Then a website will pop up and the rest is easily followed.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Craig Wilke
Keyboardist	Chrissy Wilke

THE LIVING LORD GIVES PROOF AND PEACE

In most world religions, the alleged foundational event was experienced by one person. A self- proclaimed prophet would allege he alone had some special encounter with God. "No really! Just trust me. It really happened." The resurrection reality is so very different. St. Paul writes an entire paragraph listing all the people to whom Jesus appeared after he rose, including a group of over five hundred at one time. St. Paul is telling skeptics, "You don't need to take my word for it. Hundreds of us saw Jesus back from the dead."

OPENING HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain | 462



Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754 Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION¹

- M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS²

- M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
- C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.
- M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- C; Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
 We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
 We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
 We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.
 Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

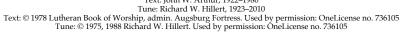
- M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

¹ The Invocation confesses that God has put his holy name on his people through Baptism and that he has promised to be with them. He is certainly with us with his promises as we gather for worship.

² In the confession, believers approach God with humility and acknowledge their sinfulness. They also approach with trust that Jesus has paid for all sins by his death on the cross.

HYMN





PRAYER OF THE DAY³

M: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word



FIRST READING⁴

Acts 18:1-11

¹After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. ⁶But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

⁷Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. ⁸Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

⁹One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." ¹¹So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

³ The Prayer of the Day often echoes the theme of the day.

⁴ The First Reading is typically taken from the Old Testament. During the season of Easter, the First Reading comes from the Book of Acts.

HYMN



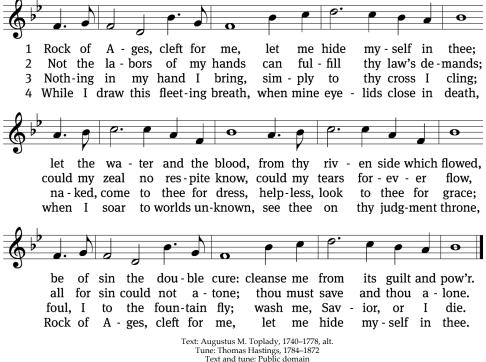
Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–1887 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736105 Tune: Public domain

SECOND READING⁵

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We write this to make our joy complete.

- M: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

⁵ The Second Reading is typically taken from the Epistles (or "Letters") of Paul, Peter, John, James, Jude, or Hebrews.



SERMON

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON NOTES

- 1. Agree or Disagree Doubts are common.
- 2. How does Scripture address these three doubts about the Resurrection?

Doubt #1 – Did Jesus really die? Couldn't he heave just woken up in the tomb?

Doubt #2 – Did Mary and the women just go to the wrong tomb?

Doubt #3 – Is it possible that Jesus' body was really stolen?

3. How did Jesus address Thomas' doubt? How does Jesus address our doubts?

NICENE CREED⁶

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 in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

⁶ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." (Romans 10:9-10)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

- M: Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy this day (*during this season*), for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds. Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: Hear our prayer.
- M: By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love. Direct their eyes to your empty tomb and ease their pain by reminding them that their loved ones will one day rise again. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts. Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

- M: Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise them and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: Hear our prayer.
- M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

- M: Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and in the feast of your Sacrament to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.
- C: Amen.

OFFERING⁷

If you'd like to give online, visit www.surechurch.com/give and follow the self-guided instructions.

⁷ The Offering is a part of the service and reflects the Christian life. Christians hear the Word of God and the promises of God and they respond in thanks. Sometimes that is words of thanks, other times it is good works, and in this case it is a monetary response of thanks to God. God desires offerings that come from the heart and not out of a sense of obligation.



Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman Tune: © 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736105

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



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⁸ The "Sanctus" has been a part of the celebration leading up to Holy Communion in worship since at least the fourth century. The opening words of the song come from Isaiah 6:3. Added to these words are the words from Matthew 21:9.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING9

M: Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER¹⁰

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁹ From the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1 Corinthians, we understand that Jesus spoke a prayer of thanksgiving as he instituted the sacrament, in which he blessed or consecrated the bread and wine for the sacred purpose of giving us his true body and blood.

¹⁰ Matthew 6:9-13

WORDS OF INSTITUTION¹¹

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

¹¹ The Words of Institution are compiled from four sections of the New Testament: Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.



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DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the direction of the ushers. If you are not communing with us today, please use this time for prayer and reflection.

¹² Luther wrote, "The Agnus Dei, above all songs, serves well for the sacrament, for it clearly sins about and praises Christ for having borne our sins and in beautiful, brief words powerfully and sweetly teaches the remembrance of Christ."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Sons and Daughters of the King | 456



9 On this most holy day of days to God your hearts and voices raise in laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615; Text and tune: Public domain

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

- M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
- C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

BLESSING

- M: The Lord bless you and keep you.The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
- C: Amen.



Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, abr., alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893 Text and tune: Public domain

LAYING THE FOUNDATION – THE FINAL STRETCH

There is one week left to submit a pledge to the Laying the Foundation Campaign! Please consider taking the step to fill out a pledge card. As a congregation, we'd love to have a really high pledge participation because we are all in this together and certainly this building will be a blessing to us all. Thank you!

RESULTS OF THE LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for everyone who donated items for our Lenten Food Drive! We were able to donate 267 lbs of food to the Brandon Food Pantry. Thank you for blessing people who are in a time of need. Let's beat that number next year!

BUILDING PROGRESS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Join us for a brief time **after the worship service on April 14**th for an update on the building progress. There will be some time to address any questions that may arise. Hope to see you there!

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

The Building Committee has entered the phase of determining Time & Talent opportunities. If you have the ability and willingness to help in specific capacities throughout the building process, please shoot a message to Pastor Wilke (<u>pastor@surechurch.com</u>) and make him aware of your ability/willingness. Additionally, if you have recommendations for sub-contractors, send those our way as well. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for Confirmation Sunday on **April 28**th. This is a great day to see a fellow believer give their public testimony of their faith and remember the promises that you made at your confirmation.

NEXT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will pick up with a new study of the book "Unoffendable" starting on **April 18th at 7:30pm** via Zoom. If you would like more information please contact Pastor Wilke (<u>pastor@surechurch.com</u>) or Samantha Taylor (<u>taylorinco@yahoo.com</u>).

NEXT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Men's Bible Study is digging into the Old Testament book of Joshua. The next study is on **April 18**th at 6:15am via Zoom. If you have a friend that would like to join the study, please let Pastor know (<u>pastor@surechurch.com</u>) and he'll make sure to add him to the email list.

SETUP & TAKEDOWN SCHEDULE

Team #2 is up for April. Here's a reminder of who's on this team and the schedule for this month.

Schelske, Lendt, Tate, Cook

April 7th – Setup and Takedown (put in back)

April 14th – Setup and Takedown

April 21st – Setup and Takedown

April 28th – Setup and Takedown

NEXT WEEKS HYMNS

One way to help your child get involved with our worship services is to teach them a song ahead of time. You can find most of our hymns on YouTube! Here are the hymns for next week:

- The First Song of Isaiah (CW 810)
- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (CW 713)
- Christ the Lord Is Risen Again (CW 459)
- I Love to Tell the Story (CW 746)

HOLY WEEK STATS

Holy Thursday –	42
Good Friday -	59
Easter Sunday -	116

Offerings - \$3,258.49 (General); \$1,603.78 (Laying the Foundation)

WHAT COMMUNION MEANS

In Communion, in, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. This is the most important thing in the Sacrament. In addition, when you commune with a group of Christians, you are saying you believe what they teach. If you believe what Christ says about His Supper and share the beliefs we have at Sure Foundation, you are welcome to join us for communion.

If you are not prepared to make this confession, please use this time for prayer and reflection upon God's Word. We then invite you to speak with our pastor about how you, too, can share in this wonderful gift.

IN PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

Before coming up for communion, all adults should ask themselves these questions:

- 1. Do you confess your sins and seek to turn away from the sins you confessed?
- 2. Do you recognize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the only way sin is forgiven?
- 3. Do you recognize that in the Sacrament you receive Jesus true body and true blood along with the bread and the wine?
- 4. Do you believe that the Bible *IS* God's inspired Word and does not just contain some truths of God?
- 5. Do you believe that Sure Foundation Lutheran Church teaches only the truth of God based on His Inspired Word? (A summary of these teachings is taught in Faith Builders, a class that runs several times a year).