

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2025

## Welcome/Announcements

**My Lord and My God**

### **As We Gather**

Proof is surely what we want, but instead of the kind of proof that would remove the need for faith, God gives us His own marks of suffering to satisfy our fears. We find our refuge in the wounds of Christ. Thomas found them and the doubter became a believer. All of us find answers to the troubles and trials of this mortal life in the wounds of Christ, and from these wounds we confess to the world, “My Lord and my God!” Don’t let your doubts and fears drive you away from Jesus. Go to Him with them all, and He has promised to build us up in faith.

## PREPARATION

### **Opening Hymn**

#### **LSB 475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing**

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris’n this day;  
Bring flow’rs of song to strew His way;  
Let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

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## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 105:4, 8*

**P** Seek the LORD and His strength;

**C** seek His presence continually!

**P** He remembers His covenant forever,

**C** the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

**P** Bidden by the Lord and confident of His steadfast love and mercy, let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.*

**P** Merciful Lord, almighty Father,

**C** we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

### Psalm

*Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
    praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels;  
    praise him, all his hosts!  
<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon,  
    praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens,  
    and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
    For he commanded and they were created.  
<sup>6</sup>And he established them forever and ever;  
    he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
    you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and mist,  
    stormy wind fulfilling his word!  
<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
    fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup>Beasts and all livestock,  
    creeping things and flying birds!  
<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
    princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together,  
    old men and children!  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
    for his name alone is exalted;  
    his majesty is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people,  
    praise for all his saints,  
    for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Acts 5:12–32*

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

<sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Revelation 1:4–18*

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

*Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

**P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

**C** death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

**P** Blessed are those who have not seen

**C** and yet have believed. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 20:19–31*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn of the Day

### LSB 433 Glory Be to Jesus

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From His sacred veins!
- 2 Grace and life eternal  
In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion,  
Infinitely kind!
- 3 Blest through endless ages  
Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment  
Did the world redeem!
- 4 Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.
- 5 Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!


## Sermon

Guest Pastor, Rev. Ted Rellstab  
“Finding Peace”  
John 20:19-31

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life  everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Grant us grace, O Lord, that we may not give in to temptation and doubt but with confidence confess the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection and bless those who hear us make the good confession. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** Risen Lord, hear our prayer.



**P** Grant us courage, O Lord, that we may not fear along the way but daily become bolder by the power of the Spirit to speak the name of Jesus and to live as His own in His kingdom here and in heaven forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant us peace, O Lord, that having full confidence in Your loving care, we may neither be distracted by cares or struggles of this life nor succumb to a suspicious heart, but daily grow closer to You through Your Word and live according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant us healing, O Lord, that those who suffer may rest all things into Your almighty arms, and, as You have promised, be kept to the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Hear us particularly for those who grieve that they may abide in Christ by faith until we all behold You face to face. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant us wisdom, O Lord, that we may elect and be served by faithful leaders who acknowledge the voice of Your Word and be faithful in their stewardship of the public trust, providing equal justice and opportunity to all citizens. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant us hope, O Lord, that we may not be lost to the power of despair but delight in Your presence to give us strength and guidance. Bless our fellowship around the Holy Supper of our Lord that by this communion we may profess our unity in doctrine and our willingness to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the desire of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant us life, O Lord, that we may be kept by Your grace and Spirit that through the days of our trouble and by the merits of Christ alone we receive Your salvation, dwelling among the saints on high even as we rest from all our labors. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C** **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Petitions appropriate to local needs may be added here.*

**P** Grant us, O Lord, all things beneficial to us and to our salvation and prevent from us all things harmful and enable us by faith to trust without fear in Your judgment and provision. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Offering:** If you were prepared to bring an offering today, you may leave it as you exit the sanctuary. Member/Visitor and Prayer Request cards may be left with your offering as well. Thank you

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.

### **Benedicamus**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Benediction**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

### LSB 482 This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joyful Eastertide  
    Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
    Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain

ref Had Christ, who once was slain,  
    Not burst His three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
    But now has Christ arisen,  
    arisen, arisen;  
    But now has Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill  
    Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
    My passing soul deliver: Refrain

3 My flesh in hope shall rest  
    And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
    Shall wake the dead in number: Refrain

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