

8:00 - Traditional Worship

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Variations on "O Sons & Daughters, Let Us Sing" – arr. David Lasky

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #619 – Verses 1-4 *

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates us anew,
who raises us from death,
and who fills us with peace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Living God,

Assembly: we confess that we do not always live as Easter people.

You come to us with peace,

yet we cling to fear.

You breathe new life into us,

yet we resist your Spirit.

You send us into the world,

yet we hold back in doubt.

Forgive us, O God.

Breathe your Spirit into us again.

Open our hearts to trust your promises,

that we may live as your risen people;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Leader: Christ is risen and stands among us,
speaking words of life and forgiveness.

By his wounds we are healed,

and by his resurrection we are made new.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

We are free to live in the peace and power of the risen Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen,
have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

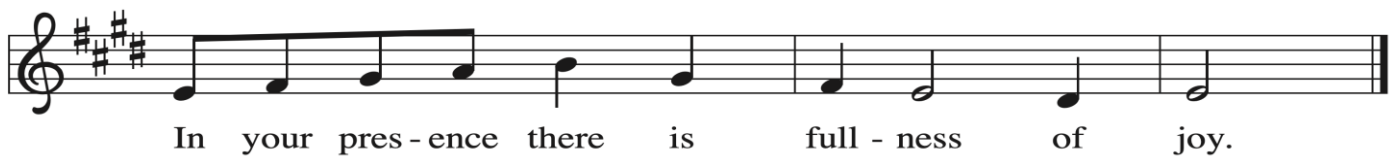
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 16

*The cantor sings the refrain and then the assembly joins in the refrain.
The cantor then sings the verses and the assembly joins in each refrain.*



¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

² All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.

³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips...*Refrain*

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken...*Refrain*

- ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.
- ¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

I Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY #386 – Alleluia & Verses 1-4 * *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

HOLY GOSPEL*

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #386 – Verses 5-8 & Alleluia * *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Merciful God,”

Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.”

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: To those of you joining us from your homes, and those in our sanctuary...
The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

This Joyful Eastertide – arr. Arthur Somervell

As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



Based on Hymn #391.

OFFERTORY *

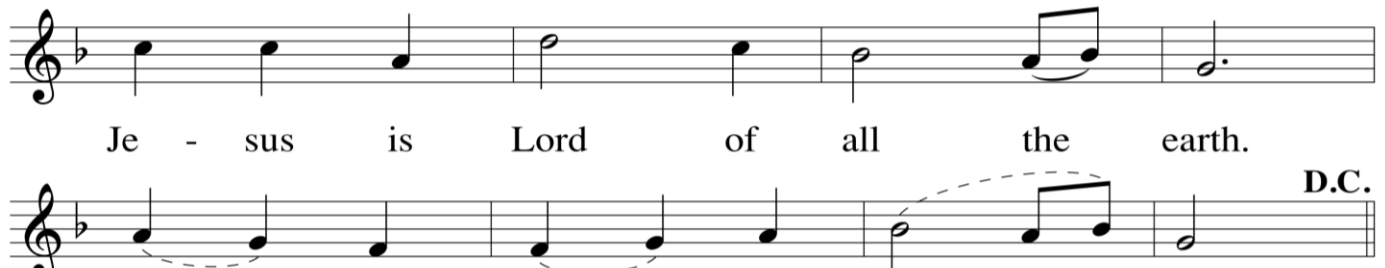
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the
ris-en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Verse



Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of cre - a - tion. **D.C.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

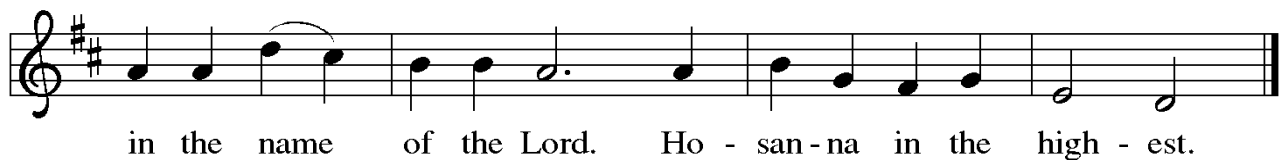
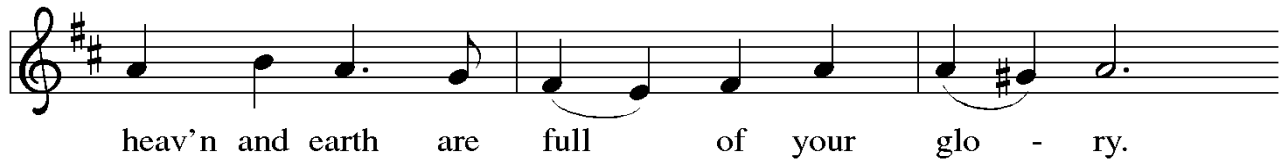
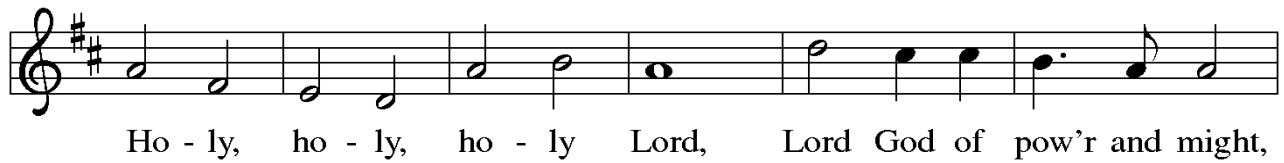
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Risen from the dead, he came among his disciples
and stood in their midst, bringing peace where there was fear
and breathing on them the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Through his wounds we are healed;
through his resurrection we are given new life;
through his presence we are made one.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Thomas, with all who have seen and believed,
and with those who have not seen and yet have come to faith,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

“Bread from the Lord’s Table” and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Pastor: Come to the table of new life.
 Receive the risen Lord.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – Organ – *Improvisation in E-flat Major* – Raymond Haan

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of the risen Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace,
 now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The God of all mercy and power,
who raised our Lord † Jesus Christ from the dead,
and breathed on the disciples the Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you in his peace.

May the risen Christ be with you,
bringing you peace where there is fear,
faith where there is doubt,
and life where there is death.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #619 – Verses 5-8 *

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Alleluia!

Assembly: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *

I Know That My Redeemer Lives! – arr. Wilbur Held

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Brian Timm, Lector & Communion Assistant
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Samuel Owens, Cantor

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our dear friend,
Nancy Prater by Becky Liefeld and Viki Rogers Beckholt.*

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