



Second Sunday in Easter
St. John's Lutheran Church
April 27th, 2025

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold** print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of † the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a
people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in
your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your
boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts
of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn:...“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” ELW#384 verses1,3,4**



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with con - stant
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to you, once



out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing eyes re -
love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will ev - er
Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our strength and
dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther e - qual



stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord! Al - le - lu - ia!
raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield. Al - le - lu - ia!
praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise! Al - le - lu - ia!

***Greeting:**

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

And also with you.

***Kyrie:.....ELW p.175**



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.



Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .



so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -
mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on



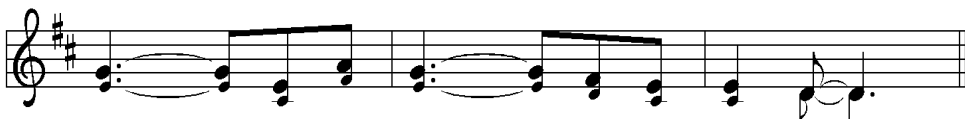
dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
 Lord, . . have mer-cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
 mer-cy. Lord, . . have mer-cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
 us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

***Prayer of the Day:**

Let us pray. O God of life,
 you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen
 Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen
 us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
 and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 Amen.

First Reading:Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Psalm:**Psalm 118:14-29**

- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tent of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**
- ¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”
- ¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- ²⁰ “This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”
- ²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵ **Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ **The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- ²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.**

***Gospel Acclamation:ELW p.179**

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***Gospel:.....John 20:19-31**

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

The Gospel of John, starting with the twentieth chapter and the nineteenth verse.

*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked 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, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Children's Message:Pastor Keith Weatherford

Sermon:Pastor Keith Weatherford

Silence for reflection.

***Hymn of the Day:**“Spirt, Open My Heart” ACS #1043

Refrain



The hymn is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with the word 'Spir' and ends with 'of'. The second staff begins with 'liv-ing.' and ends with 'ing'. The third staff begins with 'and in' and ends with 'heart.'. The fourth staff begins with '1 God,' and ends with 'of'. The fifth staff begins with 'kind and' and ends with 'to'. The sixth staff begins with 'fear' and ends with 'bor.'. The word 'Refrain' appears above the first staff and below the sixth staff.

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.
1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of
kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to
Refrain
fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

***Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession:**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers ends with these words):

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

***Sharing of the Peace:**

...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)

Offering:

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)

Offertory Music: “The Heavens are Praising the Lord of Creation”

L. Von Beethoven

Angela Conley, Mezzo-Soprano

***Offering Prayer:**

Let us pray. Risen One,

**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.**

**Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life, and so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus:** ELW p.181

San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

***Words of Institution:**

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, 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.” Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again. Amen!

***Lords Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

***Invitation to Communion:**

(We celebrate this meal together at Christ’s table, and all are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Ushers will invite you forward starting from the rear of the sanctuary. Wine is the darker liquid on the outer portion of the tray. Lighter liquid is grape juice in the center of the tray. Gluten-free wafers available. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.)

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Lamb of God:ELW p.182



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



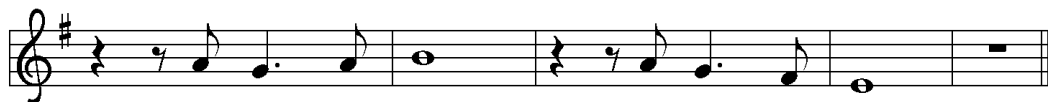
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion Hymn:“Now the Green Blade Rises” ELW #379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

***Prayer after Communion:**

Let us pray. Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Amen.

***Blessing:**

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn:.....“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” ELW #364
verses 1,4**

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

**For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

Refrain

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!**

**4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won."**

Refrain

***Dismissal:**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

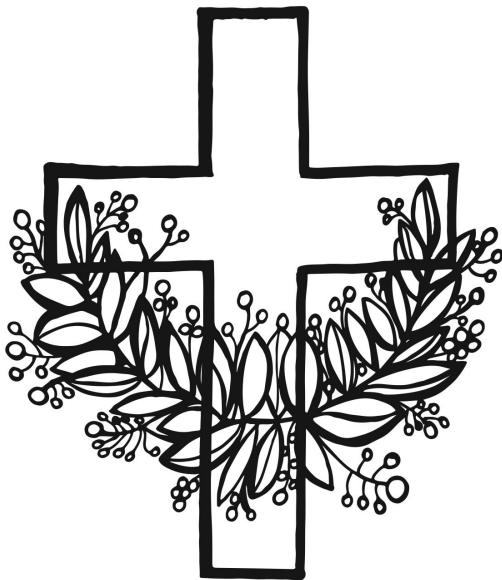
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us today!



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, April 27

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

Monday, April 28th

10:00 am-Staff meeting

6:00 pm Celebration Ringers

Wednesday, April 30th

9:00 am-Quilting

5:15 pm-Bells of St. Johns

6:30 pm—No Worship

6:30 pm-Lutheran World Relief School Kits and end of year celebration

Thursday, May 1st

7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 4th

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship with Sunday Sundae– ice cream bar to celebrate the end of the year

10:45 am-New Testament Bible Study

Wednesday, May 7

9:00 am– boxing up of Quilts– (volunteers needed)

Friday, May 9th

9:45 am– Lutheran World Relief Box pick-up (volunteers needed)

Sunday, May 18th: Senior Sunday

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am Fellowship with cake reception for graduating senior high students

Women's Spring Retreat, May 16-18 2025

Registration deadline is May 1st.

Registration and more info at www.imluchurch.org/womensretreat

Questions? www.imluchurch.org/womens-retreat

Sponsored by Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Five Valleys and Great Divide Cluster

Today's Quilts

We are auctioning six quilts that are displayed on the altar rails. You can submit a bid for your favorite quilt to help offset the cost of batting and other materials. The cost of batting has increased to \$180.00 each and we use at least eight per year. The auction closes on May 4th and winners can received their quilts during the Fellowship hour after service.

In our prayers:

Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Ann Hadley, Mary Lou Hadley, Dan Jacobson, Craig Steenberg

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:

Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy:

Evan Ceaicovschi

For St Johns Lutheran Flock:

The Branscum Family, The Hanson Family, The Johnson Family

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:

All the Saints in Heaven

For Missionaries: Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff**Pastor:**

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Bonnie Stevens 406-442-6270

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Head Usher: Gail Vennes

Communion: Karen Bryson, Linda Wollitz, Angel Tetrault, Brian Tetrault

Lector: Theresa Kinley

Streaming/Power Point: Angela Conley

Pianist/Organist: Connie Conley

Prayer Station: Bette March

Altar Guild: Judy Kembel, Linda Wollitz, Darcie Dunlap

Sacristan: Darcy Dunlap

Acolytes:

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