

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026; 9 a.m.



**St John's**  
Lutheran Church

*(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Temple Talk

Amelia Peuse – Caretakers for Creation

### Prelude

*(Acolytes light the candles)*

Linda Ranney

### Thanksgiving for Baptism *(please stand)*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*(water may be poured)*

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us, especially the mighty Chippewa,  
Eau Claire and Red Cedar rivers, for Wissota, Hallie, Altoona and Half Moon  
lakes, and for all the creeks and ponds. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.  
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you  
honor and praise, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

ELW #367; *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*, vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1     Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
      in praise of love that still abounds:  
      "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
      Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
      Repeat their song of glory here:  
      "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
      Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 2     Eternal is the gift he brings,  
      therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
      "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
      Now still he comes to give us life  
      and by his presence stills all strife.  
      "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
      Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Adoring praises now we bring  
 and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
 "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
 Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
 to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
 all the glory, never ending!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Apostolic 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.**

## Canticle of Praise

ACS Setting 12 – Glory to You

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

**Amen.**

## Reading: Psalm 16 *(please sit; read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>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."

**<sup>2</sup>All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

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

<sup>5</sup>O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

**<sup>6</sup>My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

**<sup>8</sup>I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

**<sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are  
pleasures forevermore.

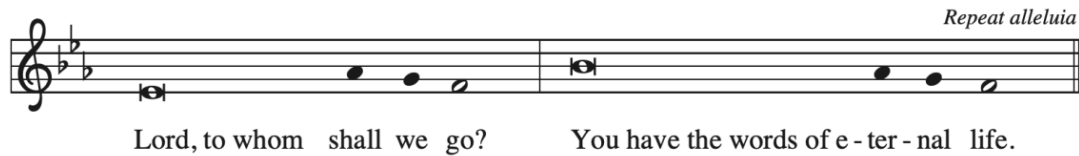
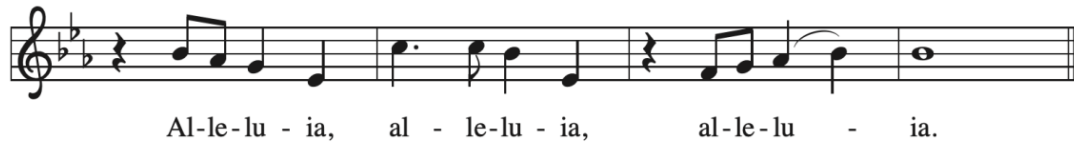
Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Time

### Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ACS Setting 12



### Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> 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 any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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." <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 come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon** *(please sit)*

*The Second Act* – Rev. Eric Nielsen

### **Hymn of the Day** *(please stand)*

ELW #635; *We Walk By Faith*

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:  
"My peace be with you here."
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side,  
nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice,  
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near  
and seek where you are found:
- 4 For you, O resurrected Lord,  
are found in means divine:  
beneath the water and the word,  
beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 And when our life of faith is done,  
in realms of clearer light  
we may behold you as you are,  
with full and endless sight.

## 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 the People

Petition:  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

## The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!  
**And also with you.**

## Offering *(please sit)*

*(Ushers take up the collection)*

Linda Ranney and Ted Simpson

## Offertory *(please stand)*

*(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)*

ELW #207; Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thankful hearts and voices raise;  
tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice  
and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises  
and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Offertory Prayer

Merciful God,  
**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**  
**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day**  
**when we will hunger and thirst no more.**  
**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,**  
**that goodness and mercy may follow us**  
**and bless the world you love.**  
**In the name of Jesus, 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.**

## Proper Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

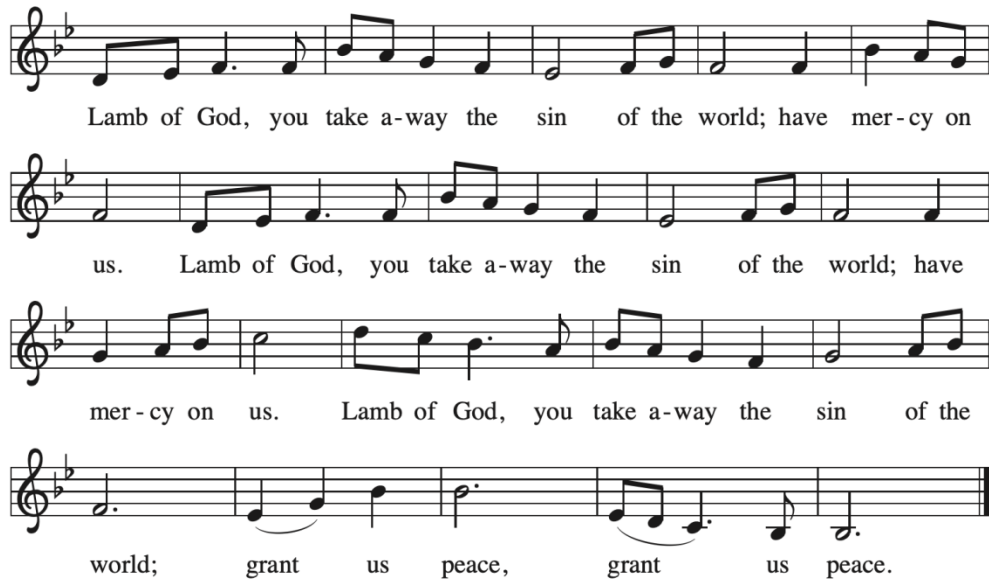
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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

### Invitation to the Table

*(Acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew. Greeters will guide those wishing to receive at the altar: stop at credence table for a cup, then walk up side steps into the chancel)*

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn

ELW #474; *Bread of Life from Heaven*

### *Refrain*

Bread of life from heaven,  
your blood and body given,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup  
until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;  
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.  
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;  
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away;  
set your hearts on the food that endures.  
Come, learn the true and the living way,  
that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the one who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*

- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you;  
make your home in the lifegiving Word.  
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,  
and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain*
- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death;  
eat this bread and believe Easter morn;  
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath,  
praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain*

### **Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer** *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Holy One,  
**through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

### **Benediction**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

*(Acolytes extinguish the candles)*

ELW #380; *Alleluia, Jesus Lives*, vs. 1, 3, 4, 5

- 1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!  
He is now the Living One;  
from the gloomy halls of death  
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,

bright forerunner to the skies  
of his people, yet to rise.

3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,  
life eternal waits for you;  
joined to Christ, your living head,  
where he is, you shall be too;  
with the Lord, at God's right hand,  
as a victor you shall stand.

4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.  
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.  
Praise him in a nobler song,  
cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the victor king, whose sway  
sin and death and hell obey.

5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!  
Join with us in hymns of praise.  
Let your chorus swell the strain  
which our feebler voices raise:  
Glory to our God above  
and on earth his peace and love!

## **Sending**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Live your Second Act.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

Linda Ranney

## **Altar Flowers**

In Loving Memory of Mary Hanson

## **Chancel Flowers**

In Loving Memory of Mary Hanson

## Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Rev. Eric Nielsen
Assistant	Pastor Christine Emerson
Lector	Frank Larrabee
Acolytes	Nolan Mattson, Emmerson Rosentrater
Ushers	Jean Jirovec, Gary Kersten
Greeters	Julie Kersten, Penny Erickson
Communion Servers	Natasha Dahlstrom, Louise Alt, Julie Kersten, Cheryl Mattison, Penny Erickson
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Issacson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Ted Simpson, harmonica

### Copyright Information

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2006 & Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510. Reprinted from With One Voice copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510. Reprinted from Worship & Praise copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510. "All Rights Reserved" Used by permission. CCLI License # 1070784. With permission by OneLicense.net license A-703800.