

**April 12, 2026  
Second Sunday of Easter**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER**  
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Our Mission Statement  
Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the  
Word of God through relationships and personal example.

**Welcome Friends & Guests!**

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

**A Time for Quiet Meditation**

**As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.**

**Offering**

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

**Standing**

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

**Organist, David Collins • Choir Director, David Ortiz**  
**Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston**  
**Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor**

**Serving Us Today**

Pastor ..... Pastor Dwayne Hendricks  
Elder..... Ken Campbell & Don Votaw  
Ushers ..... Roy Eynaud & Chuck Poynor  
Reader ..... Betty Jordin  
Greeters ..... Brenda Higgins & Rebecca Smith  
Altar Circle ..... Kristy Sturz & Kathy Vergon

## As We Gather

One of the classic Easter songs of the church is the *Victimae Paschali*. Dating back to medieval times, it includes a musical narrative of the resurrection of Jesus. One of the verses begins by addressing Mary, who is a witness to the resurrection, in this way: “Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw when wayfaring.” And Mary replies confidently: “The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection” (*LSB* 460). The vision that Mary had of the divine messenger in a bright garment at the open and empty tomb was a glorious sight. His message, “He has risen; He is not here” (Mark 16:6), was glorious as well. The season of Easter in the life of the church is a time when the glory of God is celebrated by His faithful people. In his stirring hymn text “Thy Strong Word,” Dr. Martin Franzmann writes, “Glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hopes confess” (*LSB* 578:3). Joyfully and confidently we can share the glory of Easter!

## Call to Worship

*Chimes*

## Prelude:

**“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

*Arr. by Lauren Delancy*

*Handbell Choir*

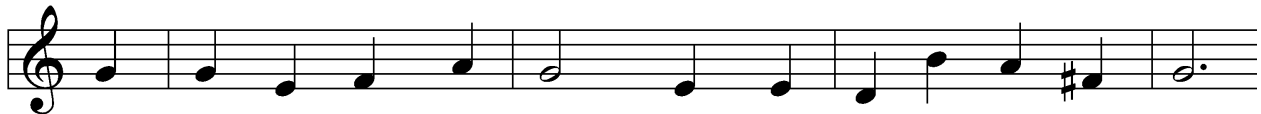
## Welcome

# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation: 478 The Day of Resurrection



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,  
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.  
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light  
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.  
All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,  
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;  
Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.  
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!  
And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

- P** Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
- C** **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- P** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.
- C** **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.
- C** **“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?**
- P** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
- C** **Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand.**

**We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.**

**P** God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **Service of the Word**

### **Introit**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!  
Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!  
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.  
He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand  
generations.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,  
that by it you may grow up to salvation—  
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

## Kyrie

*LSB 152*

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us  
pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - - - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 154*

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day: Easter 2

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**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** A - men.

## First Reading:

*Acts 5:29–42*

<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.”

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

<sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!”

So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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!

## **Epistle:**

*1 Peter 1:3–9*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Special Music:** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

*Arr. by Lloyd Larson*

*Handbell Choir with David Collins, piano*

**Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 156*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

**Holy Gospel:**

*John 20:19–31*

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



Glo - ry 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.

## **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.

## Hymn of the Day: 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King V 1-4



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly  
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful  
3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and  
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!  
wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.  
speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."  
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570-1615  
Text and tune: Public domain

# Sermon: “Faith, Fire, and Hope” *1 Peter 1:3-9*

## Offering: “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee”

*Arr. by Sandra Eithun*

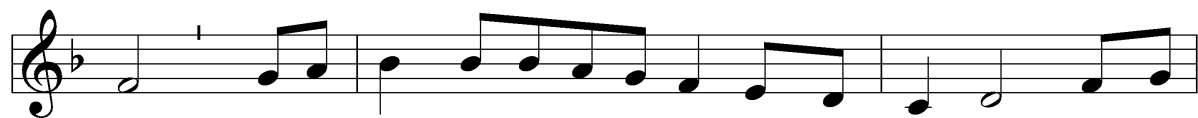
*Handbell Choir*

## Offertory

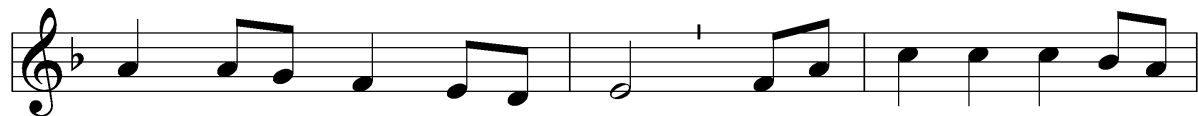
*LSB 159*



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, like Thomas we wrestle with faith amid doubts and fears. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that believing, we may see, and seeing, we may rejoice in Your Son and the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Lord, give courage to all pastors as they preach and teach the Word, that all who hear may believe and that, believing, they may live in righteousness and godliness until the day Christ returns as Judge and Lord of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ's resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God of hosts, You have added believers to the Lord Jesus in all times and places, from those receptive and hostile alike.

Shepherd the nations, and bring all peoples to embrace the Gospel of the resurrected Christ. Curb wicked rulers and break their power, that all would be brought to the feet of Jesus in worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Father, as Your Son's wounds brought gladness and peace to the troubled disciples, give Your presence and comfort to the troubled in our midst [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Comfort also those who weep [*and especially* \_\_\_\_\_] with the blessed joy of Easter morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, Your Son suffered on our behalf to win salvation for us. Grant that we may have the privilege not only of believing in Him, but also of suffering for His sake. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, give us all things good and beneficial to us and to our salvation, and keep us from all things harmful; through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## 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.

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

**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** A - men.

## Announcements

# Hymn to Depart: 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

V 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.  
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;  
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My  
 I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.  
 heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.  
 Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
 Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.  
 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
 Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000286

Tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## What We Believe +

**God:** is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*

**Jesus:** is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28*

**Sin:** all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23, 7:15, 18; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:36.*

**Justification:** Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans 5:1-10; John 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.*

**Conversion:** to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

**Holy Baptism:** is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

**The Holy Spirit's Work:** Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25.*

**The Lord's Supper:** or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*

**Scripture:** is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.*

**Creation:** happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:** of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*