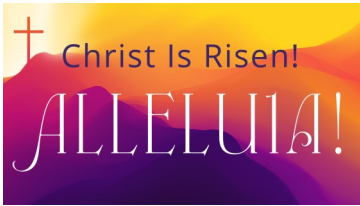


10:45 AM

April 12, 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter



The **Easter Season** began with our Resurrection celebration. During the Easter Season, the first Scripture Lesson is from New Testament History - the book of Acts - instead of an Old Testament passage. These readings from the Acts of the Apostles emphasize that the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the work of God in Christ in the world. Jesus said to His disciples and He says to us: *You will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8* We are His witnesses!

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace Team*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

We Believe
Rise My Soul the Lord Is Risen

INVOCATION *Pastor Brad Stoltenow*

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS

SONG The Goodness of God

FIRST READING Acts 5:29-42

David Renner, Lector

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven, His apostles were strictly forbidden to teach in Jesus' name, yet they continued to do so.

They were brought before the Jewish religious leaders, including the high priest.

Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 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. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 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. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He

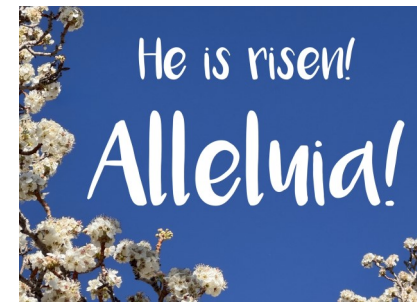
too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, 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.

Then the apostles left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 1:3-9

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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



HOLY GOSPEL John 20:19-31

On the evening of [the day of Jesus' resurrection], 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." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

Eight days later, Jesus' 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." 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." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

*Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code.
You may also add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!*



CHILDREN'S CHAT *Jodie Stoltenow*

Children's Bulletins are available on the entrance table.

OFFERING AND PRAYER *for giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

SONG Build My Life

MESSAGE "These Guys Just Kept On Talking. They Never Quit!" Acts 5:29-42

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: 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!

PRAYERS

*In our April prayers, we Pray with an Open Heart
for our Shepherd neighborhood and neighbors.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

In this Divine Service, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share HISTORY!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG The Same Power

☩ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ☩

The gospel is the good news
that the everlasting and ever-increasing joy
of the never-boring, ever-satisfying Christ
is ours freely and eternally by faith
in the sin-forgiving death
and hope-giving resurrection
of Jesus Christ.

~John Piper



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4:6-7

**LORD, LAY SOME SOUL UPON MY HEART AND LOVE THAT SOUL THROUGH ME:
AND MAY I GLADLY DO MY PART TO WIN THAT SOUL FOR THEE. AMEN!**

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

