



8 & 10:45 AM

April 12, 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter

Christ is Risen!



CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

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

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors. We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

Serving Today...

Message:
Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:
8:00 Pastor Stoltenow

Worship Assistant:
10:45 John Hoener

Organist:
Gail Black



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL *Please quiet voices as we prepare to worship.*

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; 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!

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6, 34

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SINS

Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4; Luke 18:13

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS

John 20:19-23; Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

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!

SALUTATION [GREETING]

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

P: We pray together:

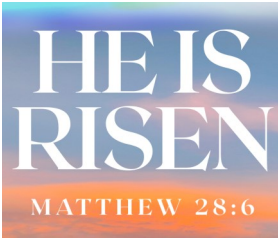
ALL: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

Please be seated.

8 AM ~ BAPTISM *Please turn to p. 268 in the hymnal*

We welcome Delilah Jane Hizer into God’s family and our Shepherd family!





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 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!



HYMN # 482 "This Joyful Eastertide"

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain
 Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,
 Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Please fill out the white 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 Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give

FIRST READING Acts 5:29-42¹

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.

¹ **Background:** 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.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand for the Alleluia and Verse and the reading of the Holy Gospel.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 20:31

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ACCLAMATION

A: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 20:19-31

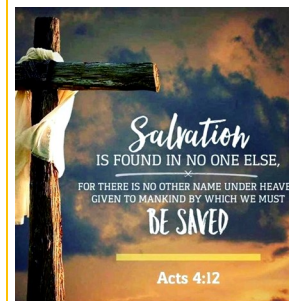
On the evening of [the day of Jesus’ resurrection], the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples 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.



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

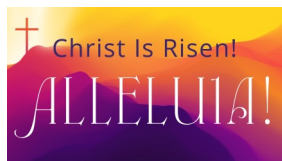


Holy Gospel:

This passage contains what is known as the *Office of the Keys*. This is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. *John 20:22-23*

As the Small Catechism states: “When the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.”

~p. 326, *LSB*



RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 461:1-2, 5-8 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;

He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;

He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;

He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;

He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;

Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES!

MESSAGE "Fearless Faith" text: Acts 5:29-42

Because Christ is risen, Christians have nothing to fear!

Christ is risen,
Christ is living,
dry your tears,
be unafraid!
Death and darkness
could not hold Him,
nor the tomb
in which He lay.
Do not look
among the dead for One
who lives forevermore;
tell the world
that Christ is risen,
make it known
He goes before!
~N. Martinez, LSB # 479

The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion. It dates back to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

10:45 AM ~ STATEMENT OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen!

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

In April, we pray with open hearts for our Shepherd neighborhood/neighbors.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:2-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: **We lift them to the Lord!**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise!**

PROPER PREFACE FOR EASTER

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS ~ HOLY [IS THE LORD]

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

10:45AM ~ 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!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

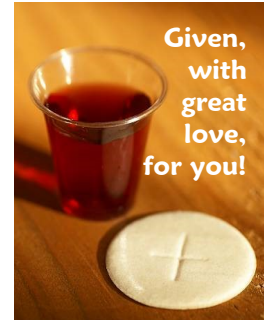
C: And also with you!

AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

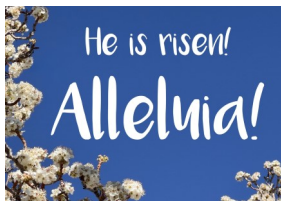
Please be seated.



Sanctus is Latin and means "holy is." The Sanctus is one of the highest points and has some of the grandest music in the Divine Service, because we are joining our voices not only with our own church family but with all Christians all over the world, with the saints in heaven—the great cloud of witnesses who have died in Jesus and are now in heaven, and with all the angel hosts.



Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, Jesus is Our All!



Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from
the heavens
Praise the LORD from
the earth!

Let them praise the
name of the LORD,
for His name alone
is exalted;
His majesty is above
earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn
for His people,
praise for all His saints.
Praise the LORD!
~from Psalm 148



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

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!

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DISTRIBUTION

- ◆ You will be ushered forward for Communion.
- ◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray.
- ◆ Gluten-free wafers are in the center of the wafer trays.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

632 "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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: Amen!

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6, 34

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN # 488 "He Is Arisen! Glorious Word"

He is arisen! Glorious Word!

Now reconciled is God, my Lord; the gates of heav'n are open.

My Jesus did triumphant die, and Satan's arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

O hear what cheer!

Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving.

He was dead but now is living!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

