

## **As We Gather      Second Sunday of Easter      April 27, 2025**

Proof is surely what we want, but instead of the kind of proof that would remove the need for faith, God gives us His own marks of suffering to satisfy our fears. We find our refuge in the wounds of Christ. Thomas found them and the doubter became a believer. All of us find answers to the troubles and trials of this mortal life in the wounds of Christ, and from these wounds we confess to the world, “My Lord and my God!” Don’t let your doubts and fears drive you away from Jesus. Go to Him with them all, and He has promised to build us up in faith.

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**PRELUDE**  
**WELCOME**

**PREPARATION**

**OPENING HYMN # 901 “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

**INVOCATION**

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 105:4, 8*

- L** Seek the LORD and His strength;
- C** seek His presence continually!
- L** He remembers His covenant forever,
- C** the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.
- L** Bidden by the Lord and confident of His steadfast love and mercy, let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.*

- L** Merciful Lord, almighty Father,
- C** we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen.

**WORD**

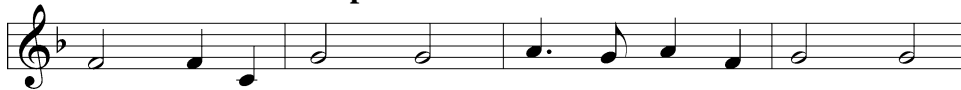
## INTROIT

- L** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—
- C** **if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**
- L** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
- C** **make known his deeds among the peoples!**
- L** Sing to him, sing praises to him;
- C** **tell of all his wondrous works!**
- L** Glory in his holy name;
- C** **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**
- L** Seek the LORD and his strength;
- C** **seek his presence continually!**
- L** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
- C** **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.**
- L** He remembers his covenant forever,
- C** **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.**
- L** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—
- C** **if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

## KYRIE

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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 mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE Splendor And Honor LSB 950



1 Splen - dor and hon - or, maj - es - ty and pow - er  
2 Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our re - demp - tion,  
3 To the Al - might - y, throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor,



Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing,  
By whose self - of - f'ring we are made God's peo - ple:  
And to the Sav - ior, Christ our Lamb and Shep - herd,



For by Your bid - ding was the whole cre -  
A priest - ly king - dom, from all tongues and  
Be ad - o - ra - tion, praise, and glo - ry



a - tion Called in - to be - ing.  
na - tions, Called to God's ser - vice.  
giv - en, Now and for - ev - er.

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## SALUTATION

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L** 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** Amen.

## FIRST READING Acts 5:12–20

“Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick

into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **EPISTLE READING Revelation 1:4–18**

"John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

- L** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
- C** **death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.**
- L** Blessed are those who have not seen
- C** **and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL John 20:19–31

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“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.” 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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, 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, 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.” 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.”

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY # 720 “We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight”

## SERMON "Believing Thomas!" John 20:19-31

## 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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- L** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Grant us grace, O Lord, that we may not give in to temptation and doubt but with confidence confess the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection and bless those who hear us make the good confession. Lord, in Your mercy:
- C** Risen Lord, hear our prayer.
- L** [*Petitions...*] Lord, in Your mercy:
- C** Risen Lord, hear our prayer.
- L** Grant us, O Lord, all things beneficial to us and to our salvation and prevent from us all things harmful and enable us by faith to trust without fear in Your judgment and provision. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## OFFERING

### 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 228*

- L** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
- G** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN #801 “How Great Thou Art”**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**Reader Today: Sherri Church    Last Week’s Attendance: Total 193**

**PRAYER LIST: Sadye (Daughter of Margie Launer), recurrence of cancer; Robert Nocella, surgery recovery; Bobbie Kale, healing.**

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Thurs. May 1 10:30 a.m. Support Group  
Thurs May 1 10:30 a.m Jesus Time  
Sunday May 4 8:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Apr. 29 Lois Beadles    Apr. 29 Tim Hintz    Apr. 29 Gail Snow

**IF YOU ORDERED EASTER FLOWERS** please pick them up from the kitchen – today is final opportunity!

**MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** Next Sunday! Donations of non-perishable food items, especially useful items that could make a meal or add to it, can be placed in box/basket in the Narthex Sunday, May, 4.

**THANK YOU!** Steve Raddatz for leading worship today in Pastor’s absence.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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