

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025
8:00 AM Traditional Worship**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz **Preacher:** Sandy Grant

Lector: Brenda Zarth

Acolytes: Ben Foltz & Slayton Hoverson

Ushers: Sue Walls, Sandra Maerz, Sue Weum & Sharon Manson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr & Roger Slack

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Christ is Alive” Williams/Linker

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to

wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you,
O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" ELW #389 Vs 1 & 3

Vs. 1: Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

**Vs. 3: In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: The word is near you.

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard.

C: and what is heard come through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!” ELW #393 vs. 1 & 5

Vs. 1: A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Vs. 5: O risen Christ, ascended Lord,

all praise to you let earth accord: Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit’s breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

²⁷⁻²⁸ Bringing them back, they stood them before the High Council. The Chief Priest said, “Didn’t we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus’ name? And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man.”²⁹⁻³² Peter and the apostles answered, “It’s necessary to obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, the One you killed by hanging him on a cross. God set him on high at his side, Prince and Savior, to give Israel the gift of a changed life and sins

forgiven. And we are witnesses to these things. The Holy Spirit, whom God gives to those who obey him, corroborates every detail."

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Break Now The Bread of Life" ELW 515 Vs. 1 & 3

**Vs. 1: Break now the bread of life ,dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred pagel seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you,O living Word.**

**Vs. 3: You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 20: 19-31

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. ²⁰⁻²¹ The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

²²⁻²³ Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"²⁴⁻²⁵ But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master." But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." ²⁷ Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe." ²⁸ Thomas said, "My Master! My God!" ²⁹ Jesus said, "So,

you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing." ³⁰⁻³¹ Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN SING: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" ELW #377 Vs. 1 - 3

Vs. 1: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise.

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Vs. 2: Walking the way, Christ in the Center

Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain...

Vs. 3: Jesus the vine, we are the branches;

life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

heaven to earth, Christ to the people,

gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain...

APOSTLE'S 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 INTERCESSION

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Brief Silence

P: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great .

P: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "The Risen Christ" Greatorex/Porter

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN: "Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoicing" ELW #544

**Vs. 1: Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!**

**Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.**

**Vs. 2: Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing, ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving, in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.**

**Vs. 3: Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation, seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.**

POSTLUDE: "Praise the Lord" Löhner/Shaw