

**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**

**9:15 AM Worship Express**

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

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

**Lector:** Amber Daniels

**Acolytes:** Caitlyn Helm & Ella Pavlonis

**Ushers:** Austin Gallagher

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

"Jesus is risen from the dead." That is a bit hard to believe. People who die stay dead, so for the next fifty days we are going to talk about it. Today Thomas, so often called "Doubting Thomas" realizes it is true.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

*Words to meditate on...*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.*

*Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Hail Thee as the sun above.*

*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;*

*Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.*

**WELCOMING WORDS OF EASTER**

**P:** Come, join the journey of Jesus today!

**C:** We come – in our different ways, walking in our own styles, at our own speeds. But we come to join the journey.

**P:** Come, walk with the God of new beginnings, a God who discovers strength in weakness, who loves in the face of indifference, who brings life into the midst of death. For Christ has died, Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

**C:** Hallelujah! We come to join the journey of Jesus Today!

### **LITANY FOR EASTER**

**P:** At Easter, we celebrate the newness and wholeness God brings into the world's decay and brokenness.

**C:** We celebrate a love that expects nothing in return and shows us what Jesus meant when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

**P:** We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus that never denies the crucifixion; we celebrate the Living Christ who comes with wounds displayed to touch us with love.

**C:** We celebrate the people whose presence disturbs and inconveniences us, revealing to us the hardness of our hearts and creating opportunities for sharing and hospitality.

**P:** We celebrate the Crucified Lord who delights in his victory and invites us to be transformed by faith that sees the less-than-obvious.

**C:** We celebrate who we are as people restored, renewed and revealed by the truth of God's love in the crucified and risen Savior. Hallelujah!

*Stand*

**GATHERING SONG: "Jesus in the Morning"**

**Vs. 1: Jesus, Jesus,  
Jesus in the morning,  
Jesus in the noontime,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus  
when the sun goes down.**

**Vs. 2: Love him, love him,  
love him in the morning.  
Love him in the noontime,  
love him, love him, love him  
when the sun goes down.**

**Vs. 3: Serve him, serve him,  
serve him in the morning,  
Serve him in the noontime,  
Serve him, serve him, serve him  
when the sun goes down.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**All: Dear Jesus, just as Thomas doubted, we sometimes doubt. Give us the gift of your Spirit so our faith may be strengthened. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL SONG: "For God So Loved the World"**

**For God so loved the world  
He gave his only Son  
To die on Calv'ry's tree,  
From sin to set me free;  
Some day He's coming back  
What glory that will be!  
Wonderful His love to me.**

**Lector:** The Good News according to John the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOOD NEWS READING: John 20: 19-31**

**Lector:** 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,

**Jesus (Women and Girls): Peace to you.**

**Lector:** Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting:

**Jesus (Women and Girls): Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.**

**Lector:** Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them.

**Jesus (Women and Girls): 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?**

**Lector:** 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,

**Thomas (Men and Boys): 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.**

**Lector:** 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,

**Jesus (Women and Girls): Peace to you.**

**Lector:** Then he focused his attention on Thomas.

**Jesus (Women and Girls): Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.**

**Lector:** Thomas said,

**Thomas (Men and Boys): My Master! My God!**

**Lector:** Jesus said,

**Jesus (Women and Girls): So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.**

**Lector:** 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.

**Lector:** The Good News of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*Sit*

**CHILDREN’S WORD/THE WORD**

*Stand*

**SONG OF THE WORD: “Oh, Sing to the Lord”**

**Vs. 1: Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. (3 x)**

**Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.**

**Vs. 2: For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders, (3 x)**

**Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.**

**Vs. 3: So dance to our God, and blow all the trumpets, (3 x)  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.**

**Vs. 5: For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia (3 x)  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.**

### **APOSTLES CREED**

**P: Do you believe in God the Father?**

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator  
of heaven and earth.**

**P: Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son?**

**All: 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.**

**P: Do you believe in God's Holy Spirit?**

**All: 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 THE PEOPLE**

*Between prayers we will sing the refrain to "O How I Love Jesus."*

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

*A brief silence*

**P:** Inspire us- your church – to share the good news of your resurrection and the new life and possibilities it brings to this world. **Hear us, O God,**

***O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!***

***O how I love Jesus because He first loved me.***

**P:** Kindle in the nations of this world a desire to cooperate and care for one another. Raise up just and courageous leaders committed to act in ways that bring life to all the peoples of this earth. **Hear us, O God,**

***O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!***

***O how I love Jesus because He first loved me.***

**P:** Embrace all who are wounded or hurting. May they know your compassion and love. Use us to respond to their needs so they might know you indeed live. **Hear us, O God,**

***O how I love Jesus! O how I love Jesus!***

***O how I love Jesus because He first loved me.***

**P:** We entrust our prayers to you, O Lord, certain that you hear and answer them.

**C: Amen.**

### **GOD'S PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE**

**P:** The Spirit of the Risen Jesus be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING SONG: "Lord, be Glorified"**

**Vs 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in my life, Lord, be gloried today.**

**Vs. 2: In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In my song, Lord, be glorified today.**

**Vs. 3: In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.**

### **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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*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.

**All:** Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

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

**C:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE:** "Praise the Lord" Löhner/Shaw