

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

8:00 AM Traditional Worship

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

Organist/Pianist: Michele Bolstad

Lector: Kris Adams

Acolyte: Beckett Nelson

Ushers: Jim Lunde, Gary Gullickson & Myron Sime

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering and in our everyday lives. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

CALL TO WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that
nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you
for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down
barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a
new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: “Thine Is the Glory” #376 ELW

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.

KYRIE: page 120 ELW (*front of the hymnal*)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 121 ELW (*front of hymnal*)

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

¹⁴That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: “Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. ²²⁻²⁸“Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God, was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him. But God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him. David said it all: I saw God before me for all time. Nothing can shake me; he’s right by my side. I’m glad from the inside out, ecstatic; I’ve pitched my tent in the land of hope. I know you’ll never dump me in Hades; I’ll never even smell the stench of death. You’ve got my feet on the life-path, with your face shining sun-joy all around. ²⁹⁻³²“Dear friends, let me be completely frank with you. Our ancestor David is dead and buried—his tomb is in plain sight today. But being also a prophet and knowing that God had solemnly sworn that a descendant of his would rule his kingdom, seeing far ahead, he talked of the resurrection of the Messiah—‘no trip to Hades, no stench of death.’ This Jesus, God raised up. And every one of us here is a witness to it.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia!” page 124 ELW

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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON:

Stand

HYMN: “Low in the Grave He Lay” Lyrics by Robert Lowry

**Vs. 1: Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord.**

**Refrain: Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes;
he arose a victor over death’s domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

**Vs. 2: Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord. Refrain...**

**Vs. 3: Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord. 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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence

P: Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful God,

C: accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that

goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN: "Halleluja! Jesus Lives!" #380 ELW

POSTLUDE