

**Sunday Worship Service – April 12, 2026**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7*

**Words of Welcome by Pastor**

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement**

**Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings\***

Throughout the scripture readings, we hear that God is with us, Defeating death. Through Jesus Christ, God brings peace and life. Joy fills the scripture readings. In 1st Peter, Peter speaks of the glorious joy that is beyond words. The gospel from John reflects a variety of emotions, offering the blessing of peace and the promise of life, as the disciples realize that Jesus is risen.

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
 let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,  
 for these waters where you make us new,  
**leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
 in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

**like rains to our thirsting earth,**  
**like streams that revive our souls,**  
**like cups of cool water shared with strangers.**

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

**Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.**

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

**Make us one, risen Christ.**

Cleanse our hearts. **Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

**#384 Gathering Hymn “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”**

1. **That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!**

2. **O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess;  
to you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.**
3. **O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival,  
for you will be our strength and shield from ev'ry weapon death can wield.**
4. **All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead but now alive!  
To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!**

p.175 **Greeting**

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

p.175 **Kyrie**

**Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.  
O Lord, have mercy.**

p.176 **Canticle of Praise "Gloria"**

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!  
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!  
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.  
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.**

**Prayer of the Day\***

*Loving God, you are our refuge and our hope. You instruct us in your truth  
and teach us the ways that lead to life. Through your son, Jesus, we inherit  
the abundance of your grace. Even when the way is difficult, even when we  
struggle, you are with us. Speak your word of peace to our hearts, that we  
too may proclaim Jesus as Lord. Amen.*

**First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

*In this reading from the book of Acts, Peter preaches the gospel to the  
gathered crowd, after the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost.*

*He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

A reading from Acts, chapter 2:

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. Peter raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!

"Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. In accordance with God's established plan and foreknowledge, Jesus was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. God raised him up! God freed Jesus from death's dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him.

David says about him,

*I foresaw that the Lord was always with me;  
because he is at my right hand I won't be shaken.  
Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.  
Moreover, my body will live in hope,  
because you won't abandon me to the grave,  
nor permit your holy one to experience decay.  
You have shown me the paths of life;  
your presence will fill me with happiness.*

"Brothers and sisters, I can speak confidently about the patriarch David. David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this very day. Because he was a prophet, he knew that God promised him with a solemn pledge to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Having seen this beforehand, David spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that he wasn't abandoned to the grave, nor did his body experience decay. This Jesus God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*The introduction to this Bible reading reminds us that it was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, chapter 1:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed!

On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you.

Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

You now rejoice in this hope, even if it's necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you've never seen him, you love him. Even though you don't see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. You are receiving the goal of your faith: your salvation.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.179 **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31**

*The introduction to the gospel tells us that the risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the*

*Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from Jesus.*

The holy gospel according to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### #635 Hymn of the Day *"We Walk by Faith"*

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:
4. For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:  
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

### Apostles' Creed (*inside back cover of hymn book*)

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 and 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<sup>1</sup>

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.*

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, **receive our prayer.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

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 the universe. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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.  
**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

### **Offering and Offering Prayer**

*Holy One, we give you thanks and praise for your promise of new life. We thank you for these gifts. As we offer them into your hands, may they bring hope and new life to those in need. In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray. Amen.*

### p.180 **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, who in dying destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.181 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.  
 Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.  
 Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.  
 Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer E: The Season of Easter<sup>2</sup>**

Holy, living, and loving God, we raise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending Jesus.

We give you thanks for Jesus, who living among us,  
 Healed the sick, fed the hungry,  
 and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,  
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,  
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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<sup>2</sup> *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer E – The Season of Easter, p.69 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in Christ.

Through him all honour is yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

p.182 ***Lamb of God***

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

**have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

**#646 Communion Hymn "*The Peace of the Lord*"**

1. **The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,  
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:  
the peace of the Lord is for you and for me,  
and also for all of God's children.  
The peace of the Lord is for you and for me,  
and also for all of God's children.**
2. **The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,  
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:**

**the peace of the Lord is among us right now,  
so open yourselves to receive it.  
The peace of the Lord is among us right now,  
so open yourselves to receive it.**

- 3. The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,  
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:  
the peace of the Lord kept within cannot live,  
so open yourselves now to share it.  
The peace of the Lord kept within cannot live,  
so open yourselves now to share it.**

### **Communion Blessing**

May the love and forgiveness of God, that is present in this meal of bread and wine, strengthen you and nourish you in your journey of faith, confident in God's unconditional love for you.

### **Prayer after Communion<sup>3</sup>**

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### **Announcements**

#### **Blessing\***

Beloved children of God,  
may the unconditional love of God,  
the deep peace of Christ,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit  
be with you now and always. Amen.

### **#535 Sending Hymn *"Hallelujah! We Sing your Praises"***

#### **Refrain:**

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

*(repeat)*

- 1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. *(repeat)***

*Refrain*

- 2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. *(repeat)***

*Refrain*

### **Sending**

Go in peace, filled with the joy of the risen Christ  
to love and serve God through word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Sources:**

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).  
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