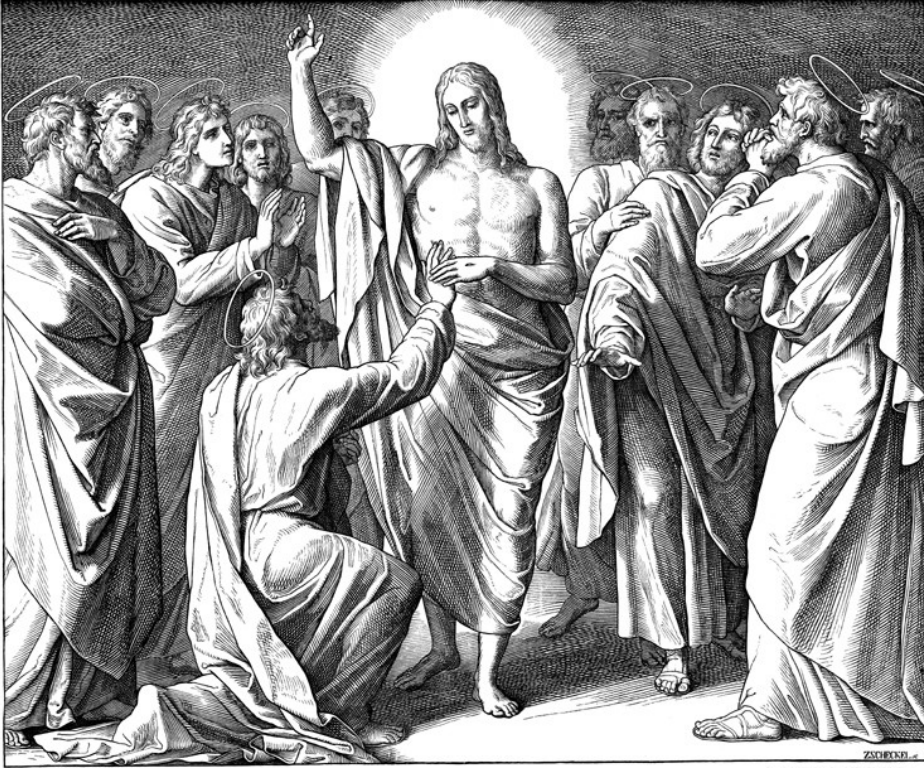


# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7th, 2024



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO  
Pastor Seth Georgson  
314-914-6457

*Leading our music today is WELS Musician Stephen Bautista and his daughter Marissa Renée.*

*From his website, [stephenbautistamusic.com](http://stephenbautistamusic.com):*

#### *OUR MISSION*

*Stephen Bautista Music is a Christian music ministry that seeks to enlighten the lost and encourage the found with original, Christ-centered music. Listeners enthusiastically describe their music as very relatable, moving, thought-provoking, and with a clear Gospel message.*

#### *STEPHEN BAUTISTA*

*Vocals, Guitar, Songwriter, Producer*

*Stephen is at heart, a songwriter, but is also an accomplished vocalist and guitarist. His musical style has often been compared to that of James Taylor, with lyrics that are not only well-crafted, but convey a clear Gospel message.*

#### *MARISSA RENÉE*

*Vocals*

*Marissa is Stephen's second oldest daughter and has been singing with him since she was 16 years old. Not only does she continue to lend her vocal talents to the music ministry, she is also a very talented artist who has her own art business called "The Art of Marissa Renée."*

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*Cover: "Jesus Appears to the Assembled Disciples" by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld  
(1794-1872)*

## THE COMMON SERVICE

### Opening Song ----- **The Most Beautiful Thing**

Stephen Bautista

The warm subtle hues of a delicate bloom  
And a song bird that greets the new morning  
A cascading stream flowing through fields of green  
And the mountains that rise up before them  
In oh so many ways  
The beauty of life has shined on my face  
And yet I know of one thing  
That surpasses by far the beauty I've seen

#### *Chorus*

The most beautiful thing I know  
Is the cross with a Savior who died for us all  
And the blood that flowed  
From His hands and feet  
And the wounds He bore  
So that we'd be redeemed  
This is the most beautiful thing

I've stood on the edge of a grand precipice  
Overwhelmed by the span of creation  
Then sat teary eyed while the sun paints the sky  
As it settles beyond the horizon  
And I'm still so amazed  
At the beauty that life has shined on my face  
But one thing stands alone  
Unrivalled and incomparable

#### *Chorus*

And I'm still so amazed  
At the beauty that life has shined on my face  
But one thing stands alone  
Unrivalled and incomparable

*Chorus*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Hymn ----- This Joyful Eastertide**

CW 160

1. This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow.

*Refrain:*

Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen.

2. Death's flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver. *Refrain*

3. My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number. *Refrain*

*Stand.*

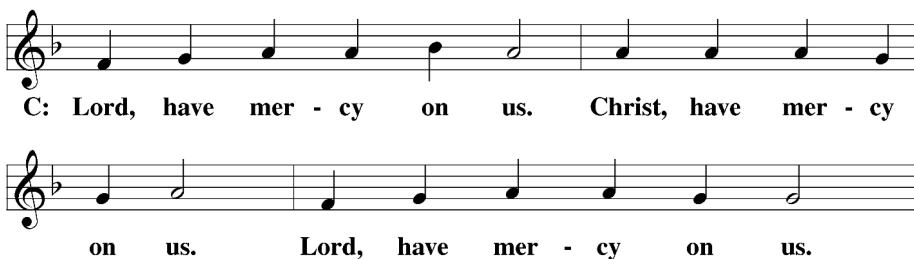
CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Kyrie*



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Glory be to God*

*Gloria in Excelsis*



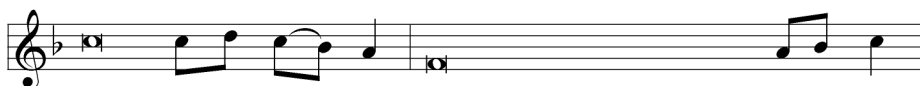
**C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



**We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,**



**we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,**



**God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;**



**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the**



**sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the**



**sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of**



**God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;**



**you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,**



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

*Prayer of the Day*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

**Song of Praise ----- At Jesus' Feet**

Stephen Bautista

Sometimes I feel so heavy laden  
From a lifetime of sin and regret  
And all the guilt that I've been dragging  
Only adds more weight to every step  
Yearning for a refuge and shelter from the storm  
There's just one place I know that I can go

*Chorus:*

There is peace beyond my understanding  
There is hope that washes over me  
And when I turn to the cross and fall on my knees

I will find it there at Jesus' feet  
There, I hear my Savior calling  
Come just as you are with no regrets  
Take the burdens you have carried  
Lay them down and I will give you rest  
I will be your refuge and shelter from the storm  
And my grace will hold you close for evermore

*Chorus*

*Bridge:*

And I will rest in the refuge of my God and King  
And I will sing songs of praises to the one who set me free

*Chorus*

## THE WORD

### First Lesson ----- Acts 3:12–20

When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. And on the basis of faith

in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.”



**Lesson Response ----- It's Hard to Imagine**

Stephen Bautista

Imagine, if we had to live our lives  
Only trusting in the things that we see with our eyes  
Believing there's nothing more than this  
That we live a time and one day cease to exist  
Never having any comfort when a loved one passes on  
Or an ounce of hope for what lies beyond

*Chorus:*

It's hard to imagine if hope wasn't there  
If grace and forgiveness weren't found anywhere  
If no place in heaven was prepared for us  
It's hard to imagine a life without Jesus

Imagine, if all of our hopes and dreams  
Were resting on the same old failed man-made schemes  
Convinced that we'll make it on our own  
When we figure out that one thing that won't let us down  
It's the same old lie that constantly is whispered in our ears  
Never bringing hope but only more fear

*Chorus*

*Bridge:*

Life is more than flesh and bone  
There is purpose, there is hope  
Reaching out beyond this mortal veil  
And surely heaven waits for us  
When in Christ we place our trust  
Giving us the hope that never fails

Imagine, if we had to live our lives  
Only trusting in the things that we see with our eyes

## Chorus

### Second Lesson ----- 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep his commands. In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

### Verse of the Day

*John 20:29b*

*Tune: CW 149*

C: Blest are they, who with their eyes Have not seen the Lord a-rise,  
Yet with faith-ful hearts be-lieve, And with joy the truth receive.

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*Stand.*

### Gospel ----- John 20:19-31

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

C: Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I

will never believe."

After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Nicene Creed*

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from**

heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day ----- O Sons and Daughters of the King**

CW 165:1-4

1. O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. On that first morning of the week,  
Before the day began to break,  
The Marys went their Lord to seek.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. An angel bade their sorrow flee,  
For thus he spoke unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. That night th' apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their Lord most dear  
And said, "Peace be unto you here."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Sermon ----- John 20:19-31**

*Jesus' Patient Mercy Overcomes Doubt*

*Stand.*

**Hymn of the Day ----- O Sons and Daughters of the King**

CW 165:5-9

5. When Thomas afterwards had heard  
That Jesus had fulfilled his word,  
He doubted if it were the Lord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
6. "Thomas, behold my side," said he,  
"My hands, my feet, my body see;  
And doubt not, but believe in me."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
7. No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God," he cried.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
8. Blessèd are they that have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been;  
In life eternal they shall reign.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

9. On this most holy day of days  
To God your hearts and voices raise  
In laud and jubilee and praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

Online giving option:  
[mluther.org/give](http://mluther.org/give)



Offerings support the spread  
of the Gospel here and around the world.

## Offertory ----- A Sweet, Sweet Sound

Stephen Bautista

There's a sound rising up through the air  
Drowning out the bitter cry of despair  
Bellowing over the voice of fear  
It's the sound of hope

Resonating out where the hurting are  
It echoes through the walls a broken heart  
Penetrating down through the deepest scar  
It's the sound of hope

*Chorus:*

It's the sweet sweet sound of a sinner's praise  
When their wayward soul is found  
As they sing a song of amazing grace  
All their voices rise  
In a sweet sweet sound

It wells up to the tops of cathedral halls  
Reverberating out through chapel walls  
Ringing in the streets like a distant call  
It's the sound of hope

It beckons to the hearts of a world in need  
Telling them the story of the redeemed  
Proclaiming that Jesus has set them free  
It's the sound of hope

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

A sweet sweet sound  
A sweet sweet sound  
It's a sweet sweet sound  
When we sing our praises  
In the name of Jesus  
And our hallelujahs ring  
In a sweet sweet sound  
A sweet sweet sound

*Chorus x2*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

***Stand.***

*Prayer of the Church*

- M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.
- C: **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.
- C: **Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

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

*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.**



## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *Words of Institution*

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



*O Christ, Lamb of God*

*Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated.*

#### DISTRIBUTION

*In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only members would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution Stephen Bautista and Marissa Renée will sing.*

*After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:*

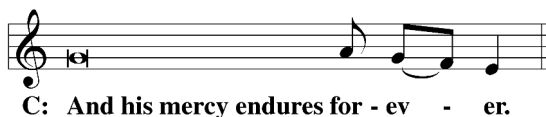
*Song of Simeon*

*Kyrie*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated.*

## Hymn ----- In Christ Alone

CWS 752

1. In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev’ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow’r of Christ in me;  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.

