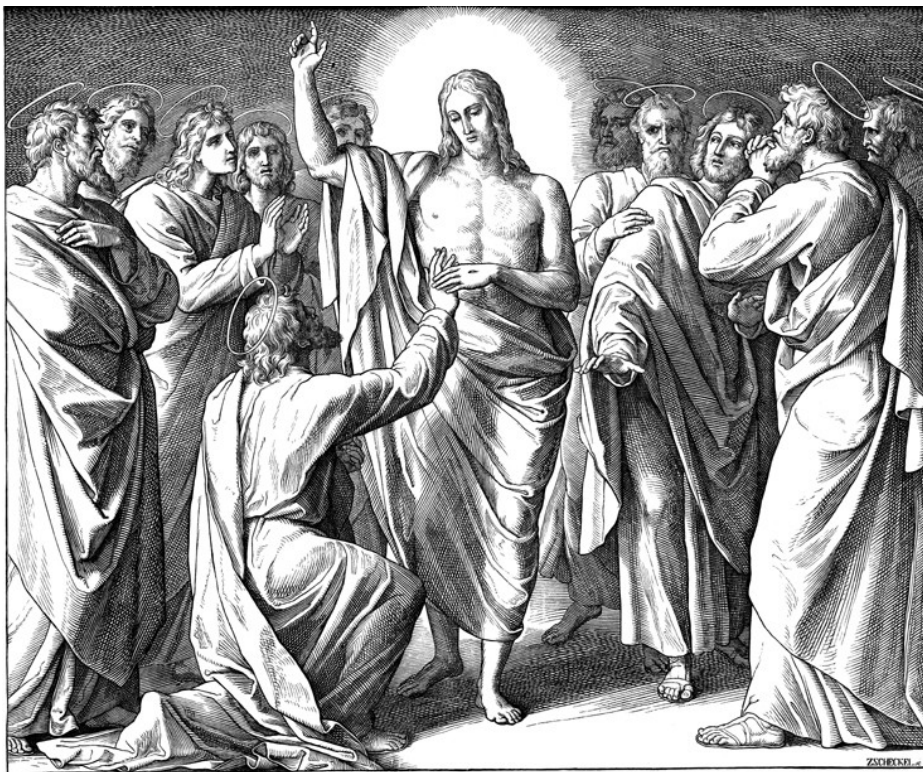


THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 12th, 2026



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

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

THE COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ----- Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

CW 167

1. Jesus Christ, my sure defense
And my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope he's giving,
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many an anxious thought.
2. Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
I, too, unto life shall waken.
Endless joy my Savior gives;
Shall my courage, then, be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the head
Rise and leave his members dead?
3. No, too closely am I bound
Unto him by hope forever;
Faith's strong hand the rock has found,
Grasped it, and will leave it never.
Even death now cannot part
From its Lord the trusting heart.
4. I am flesh and must return
Unto dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide
In his glory, at his side.

5. Glorified, I shall anew
With this flesh then be enshrouded;
In this body I shall view
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see
Jesus Christ eternally.

Stand.

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



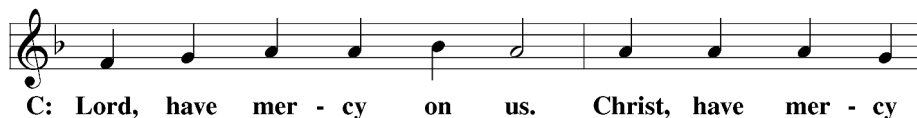
CONFESSION OF SINS

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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



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 al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we, who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection, may by your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Genesis 15:1-6

After these events the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. He said, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” Abram said, “LORD God what can you give me, since I remain childless, and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” Abram also said, “Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant born in my house will be my heir.”

Just then, the word of the LORD came to him. God said, “This man will not be your heir, but instead one who will come out of your own body will be your heir.” The LORD then brought him outside and said, “Now look toward the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” He said to Abram, “This is what your descendants will be like.” Abram believed in the LORD, and the LORD credited it to him as righteousness.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 16

CW p.68

Refrain

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Keep me safe, O God,*
for in you I take refuge.

I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord;”
apart from you I have no good thing.”

I have set the LORD always before me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;*
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the grave,*
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
You have made known to me the path of life;*
you will fill me with joy in your presence.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 1 John 5:4–12

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. In fact, there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and these three are one.

If we accept the testimony of people, God's testimony is even greater, because it is the testimony that God gave about his Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in him, but the one who does not believe has made God out to be a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God gave about his Son. This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Verse of the Day

John 20:29

M: Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
Alleluia.



Stand.

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

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

Forgiveness of Sins from Him Who Lives

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



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

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation joins with “**hear our prayer.**”*

- M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- M: Lord God, like Thomas we wrestle with faith amid doubts and fears. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that believing, we may see, and seeing, we may rejoice in Your Son and the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Gracious Lord, give courage to all pastors as they preach and teach the Word, that all who hear may believe and that, believing, they may live in righteousness and godliness until the day Christ returns as Judge and Lord of all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ’s resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Almighty God, You appoint rulers and officials for the sake of order and peace. Bless those You have placed in authority in federal, state and local governments. Give to them the desire to serve with integrity and honor and to work for the benefit of all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Gracious Father, as Your Son’s wounds brought gladness and peace to the troubled disciples, give Your presence and comfort to the troubled in our midst [*especially* _____]. Comfort also those who weep [*and especially* _____] with the blessed joy of Easter morning. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, preserve Your Holy Communion and Your Son's blessed Supper among us. Give contrition and faith to those who gather at this altar. Unite them in their confession of Your truth and so bring them worthily to eat and to drink Christ's body and blood for their forgiveness and life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Merciful God, remember those who have wandered from the household of faith. Faithful to Your promises, work all things in their lives to remind them of their need for Your unending grace and steadfast love, that they might return to the faith and delight in Your Son, crucified and raised for them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, give us all things good and beneficial to us and to our salvation, and keep us from all things harmful; through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **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, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

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



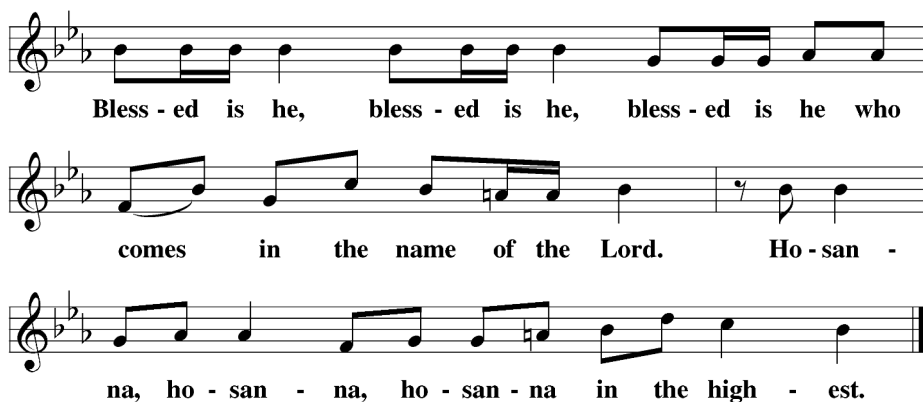
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



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."

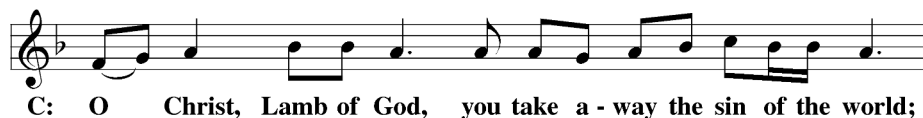
The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

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 confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- He's Risen, He's Risen

CW 143

1. He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
 He opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.
 Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
 And earth, sea, and mountain the praises prolong.

2. The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.
3. But short was their triumph; The Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;
He lives, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.
4. Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.
5. Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.

Hymn ----- I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again

CW 158

1. I am content! My Jesus lives again, In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the law of God for me; God's wrath he has appeased.
Since he in death could perish never, I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!
2. I am content! My Jesus is my head; His member I will be.
He bowed his head when on the cross he died With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection For me, too, by his resurrection.
I am content! I am content!

3. I am content! My Jesus is my light, My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all: Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation And everlasting exultation.
I am content! I am content!
4. I am content! Lord, set me ever free And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be With you, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever; Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!

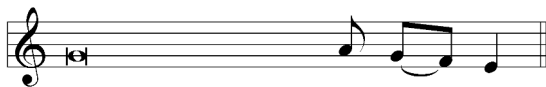
After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

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 ----- Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

CWS 722

1. Scatter the darkness, break the gloom;
Sun, reveal an empty tomb
Shining with joy for all our sorrows,
Hope and peace for all tomorrows,
Life uneclipsed by doubt and dread:
Christ has risen from the dead!
2. Bearing the standard from on high
As the Lamb of God to die;
He who for us, so cruelly treated,
Lives again-our foes defeated!
Where is your sting, O death and grave?
Christ has shown his strength to save!
3. Banners of triumph, be unfurled!
Trumpets, sound throughout the world!
Crying and sighs give way to singing;
Life from death, our Lord is bringing!
Let there begin the jubilee-
Christ has gained the victory!

