

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Faith Lutheran Church
Reacting to the Unbelievable
April 7, 2024

As We Gather: When Thomas finally met Jesus, alive again after Easter, he went from demanding proof to a personal confession of faith, “My Lord and my God.” It would have been a different story had the news been false. The rest of the Jerusalem congregation truly exhibited Easter faith when they became a welcoming community, one that shared with newcomers whatever they needed. The news was unbelievable, but so were the responses—in word and deed as faith saw the freeing truth: we need fear nothing, not even death. We have heard the news as well. How shall we respond?

PREPARATION

Opening Sentences

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

God's Kids Opening [Song: All Christians Who Have Been Baptized #596 sts. 1, 5-6; Message; Prayer]



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
 5 O Chris-tian, firm-ly hold this gift And give God thanks for-
 6 So use it well! You are made new— In Christ a new cre-



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
 ev-er! It gives the pow-er to up-lift In all that
 a-tion! As faith-ful Chris-tians, live and do With-in your



Christ once giv - en: Con - sid - er now what God has done, The
you en - deav - or. When noth - ing else re - vives your soul, Your
own vo - ca - tion, Un - til that day when you pos - sess His



gifts He gives to ev - 'ry - one Bap-tized in - to Christ Je - sus!
Bap - tism stands and makes you whole And then in death com - pletes you.
glo - rious robe of righ-teous-ness Be-stowed on you for - ev - er!

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Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:5:10; 2:1b–2

P This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WORD

Hymn of Praise Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness #849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection

C **may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading *Acts 4:32–35* (Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

³²The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him

was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 John 1:1—2:2* (God is light; He forgives our sins.)

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

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

Holy Gospel *John 20:19–31* (Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to

him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn Were You There #456



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you
4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...
there when God raised Him from the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

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Sermon "Peace be with you" - St. John 20:19-31

Offering and Hymn I Lay My Sins on Jesus #606



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

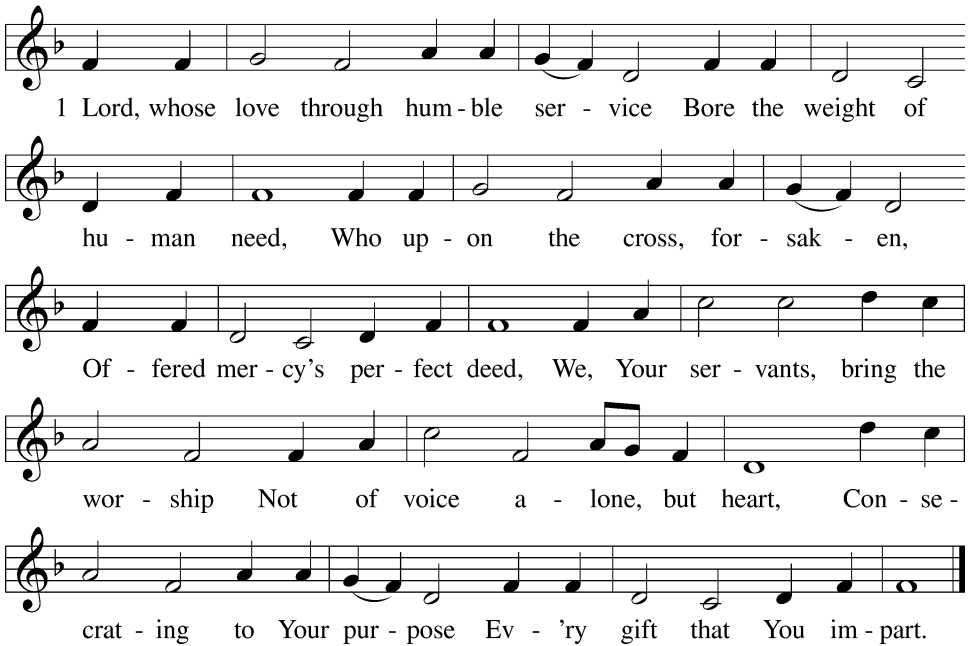
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Prayer of the Church

Acts 4:34–35

- P** We read again a portion of the First Reading: “There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”
- Let us also respond to God’s Word in song and prayer using the hymn “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” as a guide.

Hymn Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service #848 st. 1



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.

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New Liturgy Element

- P** Lord Jesus, we pray that You would use us and the gifts You have given to us to serve anyone in need. Open our eyes to see opportunities near and far in which we may serve Your gracious plans. All that we have and are belongs to You.

C Risen Christ, grant us to be of one heart and soul, sharing not only our common faith but all that we are and have.

Hymn Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service #848 st. 2

2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.

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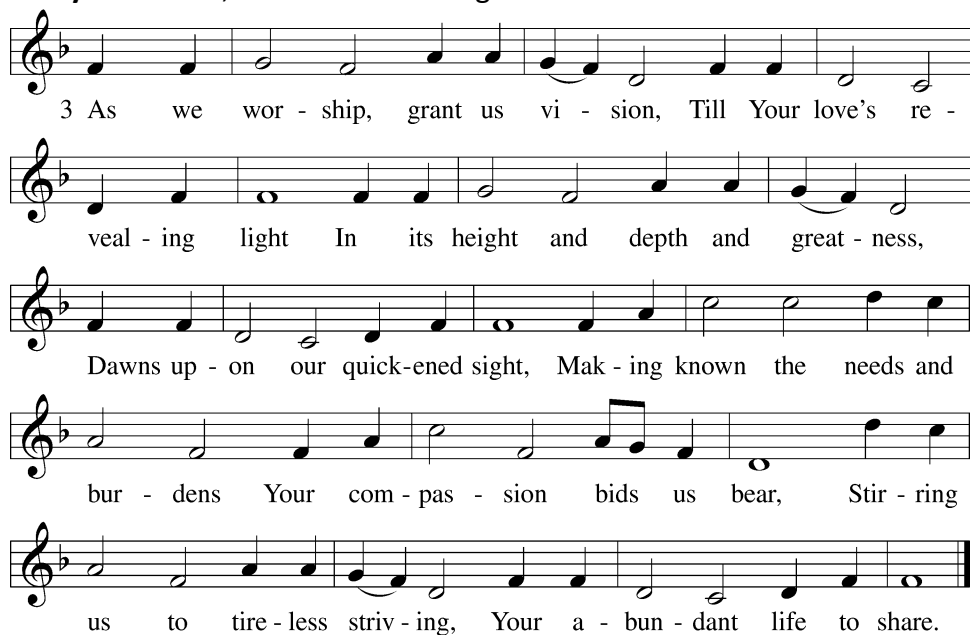
New Liturgy Element

P We pray for people who are homeless, hungry, captive, sick and in mourning. Surround them, heavenly Father, with people of faith in our risen Savior, brothers and sisters who will tend to them with compassion and love. We pray for those near and dear to us, [*especially . . .*]. Wherever Your plans include us, O Lord,

C open our hearts and hands, voices and resources to share the difference Easter makes for all who trust in our risen Savior.

Other Petitions. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Hymn Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service #848 st. 3



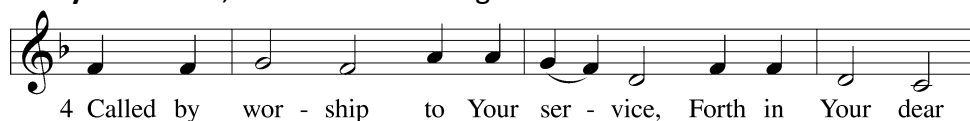
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
Dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

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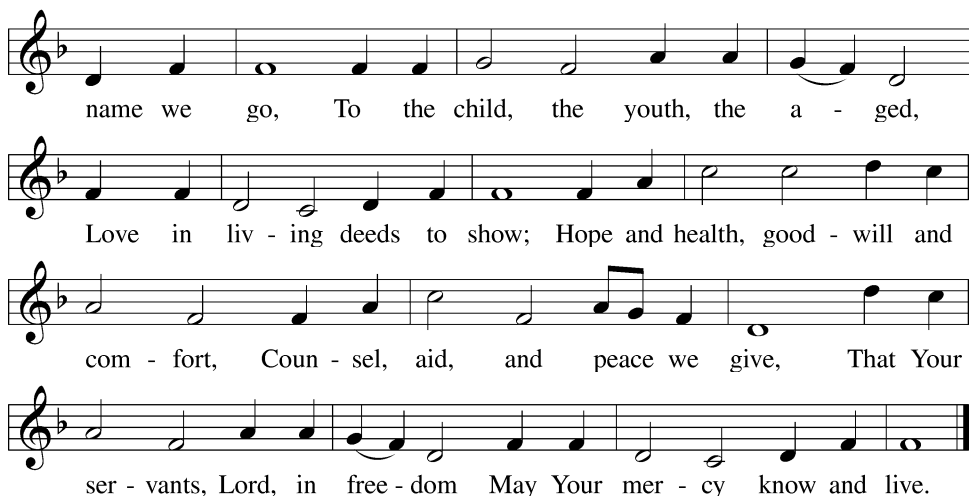
New Liturgy Element

- P** We pray for those who are rich and those who are poor, those who influence our nation and those who live unnoticed. O Holy Spirit, be among our brothers and sisters—those who have vast resources; all who make, administer, and judge our laws; and parents, teachers, and counselors—all who know Christ as their living Lord.
- C** Give them courage and caring hearts so that through them Your will shall be done.

Hymn Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service #848 st. 4



4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

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New Liturgy Element

- P** We pray for our congregation, its programs of outreach and growth, and all who worship here. That members hear God's call and invest their time, skill, and energy in His kingdom, and others hear the message of salvation through Christ. Oh Lord, be with us and enliven us to do Your will in Easter joy..
- C** **Give us strength to show forth the difference Easter makes for us. Guide and protect us, heavenly Father, that we may serve You and the people around us in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn We Are Called to Stand Together #828



1 We are called to stand to- geth - er With the saints of
2 Those whom Je - sus called a - pos - tles Jour - neyed with Him
3 Through the in - ter - ven - ing a - ges Round the world the
4 Now in man - y tongues and cul - tures Songs of cel - e -
5 To each com - ing gen - er - a - tion Tell the truth, per -



a - ges past, With the pa - tri - archs and proph - ets
side by side, Heard His teach - ing, felt His pow - er,
Gos - pel spread: Faith - ful her - als took the mes - sage,
bra - tion ring; Mil - lions who con - fess our Sav - ior,
suade, ex - plain, Till the time when time is end - ed,



In the faith they once held fast; Prom - is - es and
Saw the way He lived and died; Then the news of
Guid - ed where the Spir - it led; So the bod - y
Hon - or Him as Lord and King And, for cour - age,
Till the Sav - ior comes a - gain— Till the saints are



hopes they trea - sured Now we find ful - filled at last!
res - ur - rec - tion They de - liv - ered far and wide.
grew in stat - ure, Serv - ing Christ, the liv - ing head.
grace and guid - ance Ev - 'ry day their prayers they bring.
all u - nit - ed Un - der Christ's e - ter - nal reign!

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Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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