

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025



In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.



ZION

Ministries Under the Cross

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Welcome to Zion!

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #384

"That Easter Day with Joy was Bright"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pp. 140-141

PRAYER OF THE DAY

See Insert

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

"For the Cause"

NICENE CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed:

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #674

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Let us pray together...**Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has 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 earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

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

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

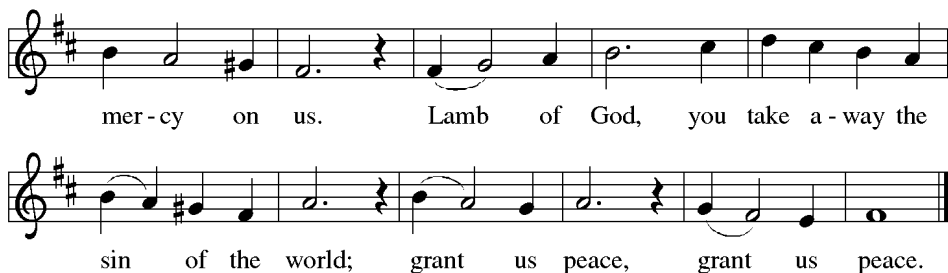
LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
 name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
 will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
 Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
 sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
 gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
 e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
 king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
 e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Father, ✚ Son, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Hallelujah, He is Risen!”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

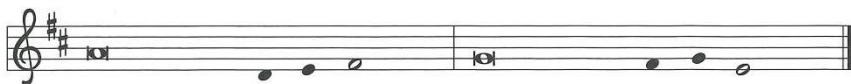
Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather

than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Psalm

Psalm 118:14-29; tone 10



The LORD is my strength ¹ and my song,
and has become ¹ my salvation.
¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation
echo in the tents ¹ of the righteous:
"The right hand of the ¹ LORD
acts valiantly!
¹⁶The right hand of the LORD ¹ is exalted!
The right hand of the ¹ LORD
acts valiantly!"
¹⁷I shall not ¹ die, but live,
and declare the works ¹ of the LORD.
¹⁸The LORD indeed
pun- ¹ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- ¹ver
to death.
¹⁹Open for me the ¹ gates
of righteousness;
I will enter them
and give thanks ¹ to the LORD.
²⁰"This is the gate ¹ of the LORD;
here the right- ¹eous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you,
for you have ¹ answered me
and you have become ¹ my salvation.
²²The stone that the build- ¹ers rejected
has become the chief ¹ cornerstone.
²³By the LORD has ¹ this been done;
it is marvelous ¹ in our eyes.
²⁴This is the day that the
¹ LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be ¹ glad in it.
²⁵Hosanna! ¹ O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD,
pros- ¹per our days!
²⁶Blessed is the one
who comes in the name ¹ of the LORD;
we bless you
from the house ¹ of the LORD.
²⁷The LORD is God
and has giv- ¹en us light.
Form a procession with branches
up to the corners ¹ of the altar.

continued

²⁸You are my God, and ¹I will thank you;
you are my God, and
I ¹will exalt you.

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD,
for the ¹LORD is good;
God's mercy en-¹dures forever.

or Psalm 150; tone 9

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God

and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes
of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put

my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe."

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

TODAY'S READINGS April 27, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.

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