

# Second Sunday of Easter



April 12, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Churches

[stjohnslutheranjc.com](http://stjohnslutheranjc.com)

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**About This Service:** The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

**Are My Children Welcome?** Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

**Visitors:** Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If you don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

**Communion:** We ask that all visitors speak with Pastor before the service and prior to coming up for communion. We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn TLH 191** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia!"

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, haste your vows to pay; Alleluia!  
Offer ye your praises meet, Alleluia! At the Paschal Victim's feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb hath bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!  
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia! Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, the Victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and man hath reconciled Alleluia!  
While in strange and awefull strife Alleluia! Met together Death and Life. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this happy day Alleluia! Haste with joy your vows to pay. Alleluia!  
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia! Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia! Now the First-born from the dead, Alleluia!  
Throned in endless might and power, Alleluia! Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!**

**Hail, eternal Hope on high! Alleluia! Hail, Thou King of victory! Alleluia!**

**Hail, Thou Prince of Life adored! Alleluia! Help and save us, gracious Lord. Alleluia! Amen.**

### **The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH**

**Invocation:** *TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

**Confession of Sins** *TLH Page 16*

**ALL:** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**Absolution** *TLH Page 16*

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C:** *[Sung]* **Amen.**

**Introit** (P: Pastor **C: Congregation**) *Psalm 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3*

P: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—  
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**C: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!**

P: Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!

**C: Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

P: Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

**C: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.**

P: He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**Gloria Patri:** *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Kyrie:** *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The Gloria in Excelsis:** *TLH Pages 17-19 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect**

*TLH Page 19*

P: The Lord be with you! **C: And with thy spirit!**

*(prayed together)* – **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.**

**Response: [Sung] Amen.**

### **First Reading – Acts 5:29-42**

<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

### **Epistle Reading – 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Gradual** (*Pastor speaks, congregation responds with “Hallelujahs!”*)

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

**C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings...*     **C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!**

### **Gospel Reading – John 20:19-30**

<sup>19</sup>On 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.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight 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.” <sup>27</sup>Then 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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but 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.

*The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...*

**C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!**

**The Nicene Creed** *TLH Page 22*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn TLH 320** "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

**Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From earth-born passions set me free And make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, With many a care opprest;  
Let me Thy loving servant be And taste Thy promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery Be Thou my Health and Life.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point Thou the heavenly way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me When floods the tempest high;  
When on doth rush the enemy, O Savior, be Thou nigh!**

**Lord Jesus, think on me That, when the flood is past,  
I may th' eternal brightness see And share Thy joy at last.**

**△ Lord Jesus, think on me That I may sing above  
To Father, Spirit, and to Thee The strains of praise and love. Amen.**

**The Sermon**

**Offertory** *TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]*

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers**

*TLH Pages 23-24*

## **ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Preface:** *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C: It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

**The Sanctus:** *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Lord's Prayer:** *TLH Page 27*

**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;**

*[Sung]* **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Words of Institution:** *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**The Pax Domini:** *TLH Page 27*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

**The Agnus Dei:** *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.**

**The Distribution** *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us.)*

**Distribution Hymns TLH 144 "Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing"**

Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Thy holy wounds I find,  
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me ere its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation Prove too strong for flesh and blood,  
Let me think upon Thy Passion, And the breach is soon made good.  
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded," That the Tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices On the broad and easy road  
With its mirth and luring vices, Let me think upon the load  
Thou didst carry and endure That I flee all thoughts impure,  
Banishing each wild emotion, Calm and blest in my devotion.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me, By Thy stripes, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm faint, Thy Cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.  
Yea, Thy comfort renders sweet Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For Thy all-atoning Passion Has procured my soul's salvation.

O my God, my Rock and Tower, Grant that in Thy death I trust,  
Knowing Death has lost his power Since Thou trodd'st him in the dust.  
Savior, let Thine agony Ever help and comfort me;  
When I die, be my Protection, Light and Life and Resurrection. Amen.

**TLH 192 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"**

Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious Sun.  
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.

The Foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But, lo, he now is routed, His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory  
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens; What peace it doth impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son In love for me hath won.

Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.  
Grim Death with all his might Cannot my soul affright;  
He is a pow'rless form, Howe'er he rave and storm.

The world against me rageth, Its fury I disdain;  
Though bitter war it wageth, Its work is all in vain.  
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.  
Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.

**Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passeth through.  
He rends Death's iron chain, He breaks through sin and pain,  
He shatters hell's dark thrall,-- follow Him through all.**

**To halls of heavenly splendor With Him I penetrate;  
And trouble ne'er may hinder Nor make me hesitate.  
Let tempests rage at will, My Savior shields me still;  
He grants abiding peace And bids all tumult cease.**

**He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rime immortal Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross hath shared Finds here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me hath died Shall here be glorified." Amen.**

**Nunc Dimittis**

*TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,  
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,  
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Thanksgiving:** *TLH Page 30*

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: *[Sung]* **And His mercy endureth forever.**

**The Thanksgiving Prayer:** *TLH Pages 30-31*

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,  
world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

**The Benedicamus:** *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Benediction:** *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto  
you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

**Closing Hymn TLH 313 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"**

**O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish.  
O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear and need: O Lord, have mercy!**

**Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.  
 No greater love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast thereof remind us!  
 O Lord, have mercy!  
 Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
 All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!**

**May God bestow on us His grace and favor To please Him with our behavior  
 And live as brethren here in love and union Nor repent this blessed Communion!  
 O Lord, have mercy!  
 Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heavenly minded He make us;  
 Give Thy church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity; O Lord, have mercy!**

**Silent Prayer - Announcements**

***Have A Blessed Week!***

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**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

**The Lutheran Hymnal:** St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn #191: Scripture: Mark 16:6; Victimae Paschali (c. 1100); Christ The Lord Is Risen Today! Alleluia! Author Unknown; Translator: Jane E. Leeson (1851); Tune Llanfair; Composer: Robert Williams (1877).

Hymn #320: Scripture: Psalm 119:133; Μνώεο Χριτέ; Lord Jesus, Think On Me; Author: Synesius of Cyene, d. 480; Translator: Allen W. Chatfield (1876, cento); Tune: Southwell; Source: "Psalter," William Daman, 1579.

Hymn #144: Scripture: 1 Peter 2:24; Jesu, deine tiefen Wunden; Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing; Author: Johann Heermann (1644, ab.); Translation: composite; Tune: Der am Kreuz; Composer: Johann B. König (1738).

Hymn #192: Scripture: Colosians; Auf, auf, mein Herz, mit Freuden; Awake, My Heart, With Gladness; Author: Paul Gerhardt (1648, alt.); Translator: John Kelly (1867, alt.); Tune: Auf, auf, mein Herz; Composer: Johann Cruger (1648).

Hymn # 313: Scripture: Psalm 118:1; Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet; O Lord, We Praise Thee; Author: Stanza 1 – Author Unknown (c.1400); Stanza 2-3 – Martin Luther (1524); Translation: Composite; Tune: Gott sei gelobet; Source: German Melody, c. 1400.

**Bible Readings:** The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

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*"We should inscribe the words 'Christ is risen from the dead' with letters so large that just one letter would be as large as a steeple, even as large as heaven and earth, so that we could see and hear, know and think of, nothing but this statement. And we call this faith, when we are so grounded on it and as firmly caught up in it as if nothing else were ever written. If now we believe this, we can live and die in peace. We must also understand that Our Lord's Resurrection ties us mutually together with Christ, so that we also are included in His resurrection. On account of it and through it we also rise and live with him eternally. Moreover, our resurrection and life in Christ have already begun and are as sure as if they had already happened, although they still lie hidden and are not manifest."*

- Martin Luther

**Daily Bible Reading:**

- **Monday, Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Corinthians 8
- **Tuesday, Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Corinthians 9
- **Wednesday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Corinthians 10
- **Thursday, Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Corinthians 11
- **Friday, Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Corinthians 12
- **Saturday, Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Corinthians 13
- **Sunday, Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>:** Ruth 1

**Catechism Recitation for the Week:**

**Baptism: Which are these words and promises of God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)