

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES**  
**Babbtown (Meta 8 am)**  
**Schubert (Jefferson City 10 am)**

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***Second Sunday of Easter***  
***April 27, 2025***

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***Today in our worship liturgy we use the familiar order from The Lutheran Hymnal. The parts of our worship are modeled after the Old Testament service that was given by God to his people.***

***We call this "liturgy," which means a form by which God promises to come as we call on him, forgive us as we confess together, and hear as***

***he speaks through his Word.***

***As we worship today, give thought to what each part plays in our humble thanks to God for his Divine Service to us through Jesus life and words, and his death and resurrection.***



**Liturgy, Page 15 – The Lutheran Hymnal**  
**Printed below with P for Pastor, C for Congregation**

**The Ringing Of The Bell**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

*Hymns* are a way of teaching us about our faith and expressing our praises together

**Opening Hymn:** TLH #188 "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!" vs. 1-4

**Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;  
From the gloomy halls of death Christ the Conqueror has gone,  
Bright Forerunner to the skies Of His people, yet to rise.**

**Jesus lives! Let all rejoice! Praise Him, ransomed ones of earth.  
Praise Him in a nobler song, Cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the Victor-King, whose sway Sin and death and hell obey.**

**Jesus lives! Why weepest thou? Why that sad and frequent sigh?  
He who died our Brother here Lives our Brother still on high.  
Lives forever to bestow Blessings on His Church below.**

**Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, Life eternal waits for thee;  
Joined to Him, thy living Head, Where He is, thou, too shalt be;  
With Himself, at His right hand, Victor over death shalt stand.**

#### **Invocation**

*We are reminded that the only reason we are able come into God's house and enter His presence is that we have been baptized into his name and become his children.*

**Invocation:** p. 15 [*Responses Sung*]

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 & Absolution**

*We come into our Father's presence asking for his help. Without the love of God, the redemption of Jesus and the communion of the Holy Spirit we are lost and condemned. And he tells us he has already done these things when Jesus lived and died for us, and rose from the dead to give us eternal life.*

**Confession:** [*Spoken by all*]

**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** p. 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 Spirit.

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

### **Introit**

*Introit means "entrance," and God invites us to enter into his house and celebrate with him our life bought and paid for by Jesus' blood on a cross. It is usually a Psalm of thanksgiving and praise.*

### **Gloria Patri – Kyrie – Gloria in Excelsis**

*As we enter worship, we give glory to God. We ask God to have mercy on us, to help us and save us. All around us we see the results of hatred, envy, lust, and greed. Surely, the world is in need of God's mercy. It's no wonder that the church, in her worship, pleads before God on behalf of the whole world.*

*We are confident that God hears us and has mercy on us for Jesus' sake.*

*On the night of Jesus' birth, the angels let loose their earth-shattering song of praise: "Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Our focus is on the incarnate Son of God, the only-begotten Son, the Lamb of God, and only Son of the Father. And if that isn't enough to name this One who is the object of our worship and praise, twice we sing, "you take away the sin of the world."*

**Gloria Patri:** p.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:** p.17 [Sung]

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

**The Gloria in Excelsis:** p. 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 & Collect**

*As the Pastor turns from the Altar to the congregation, he reminds everyone gathered that God is turning to us and is with us. The congregation responds to the Pastor that God is also with him as he speaks God's Word to those gathered. A prayer which is offered on behalf of all those gathered is then shared.*

**Salutation and Response:** p.19

**P: The Lord be with you.**

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

**Collect (Prayer Of The Day)**

**Response [Sung]: Amen.**

### **Reading of the Word of God**

*Frequently we conclude the reading of Holy Scripture with the phrase, "This is the Word of the Lord!" More than just a "word" from God, this is his revelation in which he makes known to us his will, most specifically, his merciful will that desires our salvation. God himself speaks to us personally through time and the ages. In the sermon, the Word of God is brought to bear on the lives of the hearers. This is the equivalent of sitting at the feet of Jesus.*

#### **First Reading**

*Acts 5:12-20*

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

#### **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, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

### **The Gradual**

*From the Latin for "step." Symbolically we "step up" to the reading of the Gospel, which is always the high point of the reading of the Word. After a verse or verses from Scripture, the congregation responds with "Halleluiah!"*

*As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings... **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!***

#### **The Gospel Reading**

*John 20:19-31*

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." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

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

**Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

### Creed

*In the course of his earthly ministry, Jesus put this hard question to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" The devil and his angels are powerless when we confess our faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

#### **The Nicene Creed p. 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.**

### The Sermon

*The Pastor has the opportunity to share some thoughts on part of the text of the Scripture Readings.*

**Sermon Hymn: TLH #204 "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"**

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath bro't His Israel Into joy from sadness.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst His prison  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath risen.**

**All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying  
From His light, to whom we give Laud and praise undying.  
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark portal  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal Hold Thee as a mortal.**

**But today amidst Thine own Thou didst stand, bestowing  
That Thy peace which evermore Passeth human knowing.  
Come, ye faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath bro't His Israel Into joy from sadness. Amen.**

**Sermon Theme: RESURRECTION AND HOPE** Sermon Text: John 20:24-29

Introduction – Sometimes it takes a while for something to “sink in”

1. It is easy to doubt things that are hard to believe
  - a. Jesus had come to Jerusalem with high hopes
  - b. Jesus was arrested and put on trial
  - c. Jesus was crucified and buried
2. People are not easily convinced that amazing things are true
  - a. Jesus appeared alive to the disciples
  - b. Everything they believed about life was challenged
  - c. None of it made sense to Thomas
3. If someone was to believe such a thing, what would it mean?
  - a. How would believing in resurrection change you?
  - b. What would you do different in daily living?
  - c. Why would you have hope that you never had before?

Conclusion – When belief “sinks in” that Jesus is alive we are changed

### Offering and Prayers

*Our offerings and prayers are acts of thankfulness to God. Prayer is a response to God's invitation to believe in the love and life Jesus brings us, and our offerings are a symbol of the blessings God showers on us.*

*(The Offerings are brought forward. Offering plates are at the entrances.)*

**Offertory** p. 22 [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**

#### **THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*[We invite those who are communicant members of sister Lutheran Congregations, in the fellowship of LC-MS, and are repentant, to commune with us.]*

#### Preface

*We "prepare" ourselves for coming to the Lord's Supper.*

**The Preface:** p. 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 You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### Sanctus - The Lord's Prayer

*In a sense, we catch a glimpse of heaven as we prepare to come to the Lord's Supper. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory."*

**The Sanctus:** p. 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:** p. 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.**

#### Words of Our Lord and Greeting of Peace

*According to the command of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper not as a mere meal of remembrance but as a Sacrament by which Jesus himself comes to us. Jesus comes to us and brings heaven down to earth for our benefit. These words are a summary of Paul's good order of sharing Christ's body and blood in communion in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. As Jesus showed himself to his disciples and declared, "Peace be with you," we share that same peace.*

### **The Words of Institution:**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **The Pax Domini: p. 27**

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

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

### **Agnus Dei**

*As we prepare to feast on the Lamb of our salvation, we do indeed proclaim him who gave his life for us. Here is the Lamb of God! Yet we also pray to him who is now present in his body and blood.*

### **The Agnus Dei: p. 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.**

### **Distribution**

*We are invited to join the angels, archangels, the company of heaven, saints who have gone before us and saints to come, and Christians everywhere in communion with God and each other as we receive Jesus' body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine. We do this as a public confirmation of faith we have pledged to our Christian family.*

### **Distribution Hymns**

*We encourage one another with our hymns as we come forward together to share in the body of Christ as a family and community.*

### **Distribution Hymns: TLH #201 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!"**

**Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appal me;  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! To Him the throne High o'er heav'n and earth is given.  
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful. Doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.  
Freely God doth aid dispense; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! I know full well Naught from me His love shall sever;  
Life nor death nor powers of hell Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be a sure Defense; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! and now is death But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense, Jesus is my confidence! 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**

*We celebrate the faith we have that God has done everything to prepare us to depart this world in peace. But as we depart worship, we go to the world having Jesus in and with us to share with others in our life. These were the words of Simeon as he first saw Jesus as a baby in the temple.*

**The Nunc Dimittus: p. 29 [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: p. 30**

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

C: [Sung] And His mercy endureth forever.



**The Thanksgiving Prayer:** pp, 30-31

P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith towards You and in fervent love toward one another; 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:** p. 31

P: The Lord be with you.

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

P: Bless we the Lord.

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

**Benediction**

*God told Aaron and the priests in the Old Testament book of Numbers to speak these words, and he promised to bless people with his grace and mercy.*

**The Benediction:** p. 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 #188 “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!” vs. 5-6

**Jesus lives! To Him my heart Draws with ever new delight.  
Earthly vanities, depart, Hinder not my heavenward flight.  
Let this spirit ever rise To its Magnet in the skies.**

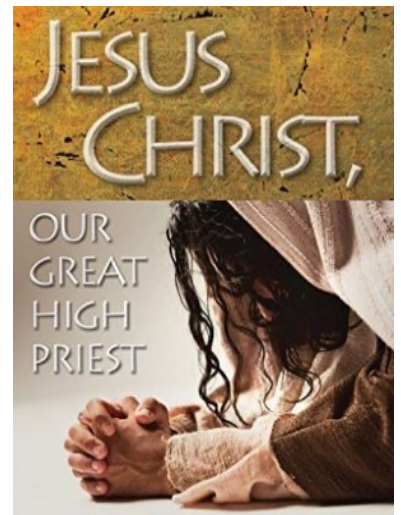
**Hallelujah, angels, sing! Join us in our hymn of praise;  
Let your chorus swell the strain Which our feeblers voices raise;  
Glory to our God above And on earth His peace and love! Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Announcements**

***Martin Luther said, "No one should be deceived by glamor of ceremonies and entangled in the multitude of pompous forms, and thus lose the simplicity of the liturgy itself.***

***The true essence of liturgy should not be obscured by outward appearances. The heart of our worship is God promising to work through it to offer forgiveness and hope through our Great High Priest, Jesus."***



***Have A Blessed Week!***

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**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

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

Hymn #188: Scripture: John 20:15; Halleluja, Christus lebt; Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!; Author: Carl B. Garve (1825, cento); Translator: Jane Borthwick (1862); Tune: Fred til Bod; Composer: Ludvig Von Lindeman (1871).

Hymn #204: Exodus 15:1-21; Αἰσωμεν, πάντες ἄσσοι; Come, Ye faithful, Raise The Strain; Author: John of Damascus, circa 750; Translator: John M. Neale (1859, alt., ab.); Tune: Schwing dic auf; Source: "Geistliche Andacten," Berlin, 1666.

Hymn #201: Scripture: Romans 8:11; Jesu lebt, mit ihm auch ich; Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won; Author: Christian F. Gellert (1757, ab.); Translator: Frances E. Cox (1841, alt.); Tune: Jesu, Meine Zuversicht; Composer: Johann Cruger (1656).

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).

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