



# Second Sunday of Easter

## Sunday, April 7, 2024

### St. James Lutheran Church

#### INTRODUCTION

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

*Water is poured into the font as the Presiding minister gives thanks.*

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**



Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.  
**Amen.**

# ENTRANCE HYMN "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!" (LBW 147)

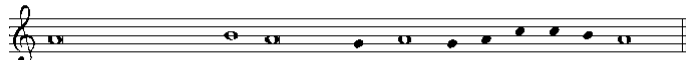
## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.




**Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.




**Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



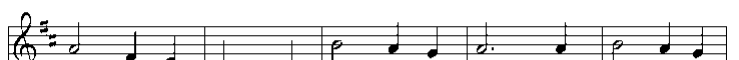
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men**



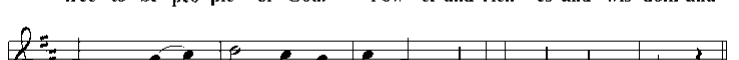
A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



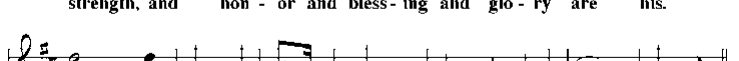
**Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us**



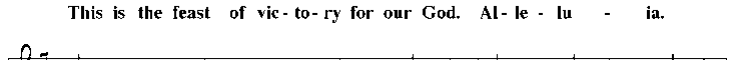
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



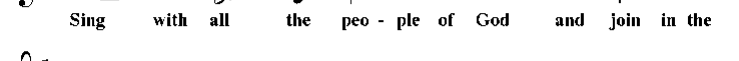
strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



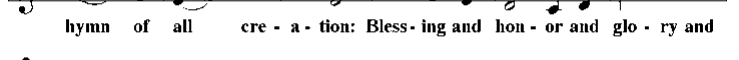
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



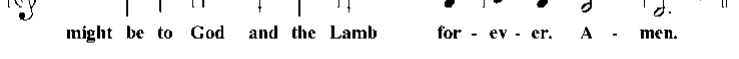
Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



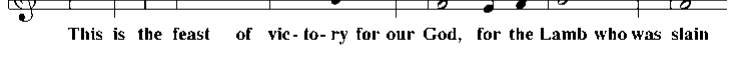
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . .

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING:

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.



### Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 133

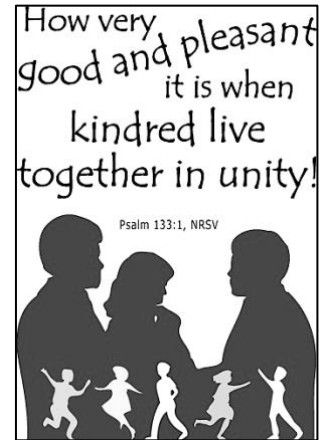
<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,

when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

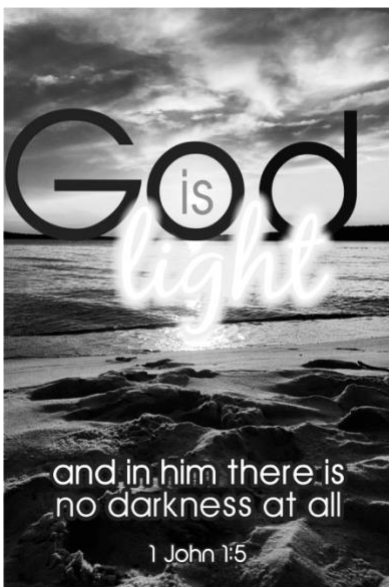
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.



## Second Reading:

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

### 1 John 1:1--2:2



<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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

<sup>2:1</sup>My 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; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31



*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*



<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>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 any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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.”

<sup>26</sup>A 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.” <sup>27</sup>Then 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.” <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 come to believe.”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.



## SERMON: Pastor Carl Trost

## HYMN OF THE DAY “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (WOV 649)



## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain especially pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Bonnie, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, and Joyce, God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**


The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

**Anthem: "Great is the Lord"** Words, music by Michael W. Smith and Deborah Smith.

## OFFERING



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection

of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

## SANCTUS

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  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen  
you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.  
**Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN "This Joyful Eastertide" (WOV 676)


### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### Flowers Given For the Celebration of Christ's



April  
7<sup>th</sup> Sherie Whiting-Rohal  
14<sup>th</sup> Lynda Diehl  
21<sup>st</sup> Tammy Jones  
28<sup>th</sup> Bambi Straw

### Prayer Concerns

#### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Bonnie Snyder (Danny's mother), and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), and Joyce Dull.

### Community Conversations

- April flowers are given by Ellie Sander.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Quilt Group meets at 1pm.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting at 9am.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
  - April—Anne Putnam

### FOSTER FAMILIE CARE

Our SVWO service project is to support foster families in our area. New and used items are needed. A list of items needed is in the Narthex. A container for the items is in the Narthex. Collections go through May 14<sup>th</sup>.



Betty Bartley

In memory of Tom Bartley  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Miller  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Bartley, Sr.

Ivan Diehl

In memory of Linda Diehl

Lynda & Sam Diehl

In memory of Russell & Lydia Diehl  
In memory of Louis Dixey  
In memory of Bob Dixey

Joyce Dull, Chris, Kevin, Cameron, Lexi, and Blake

In memory of Harry Dull  
In memory of Frances Hall  
In memory of Mary Shiplett  
In memory of Bill & Lucille Hiner

Ruth Foreman

In memory of Rose Shank  
In memory of Ronald Robinson

Gene Giltner

In memory of Roberta Giltner  
In memory of Benedict Giltner

John Grove

In memory of Crystal Grove

Eddie Jones, Tammy & Ronnie Jones, and Angie & Rick Pino

In memory of Patsy Jones

Anne & Pastor Gordon Putnam

In memory of our parents and grandparents  
In honor of Ruth Foreman

Sherie & Paul Rohal

In memory of Loretta Whiting

Debbie & Danny Snyder, Becky Dick, and Jennifer Dick

In memory of Glenn & Estelle Thayer  
In memory of Jimmy Dick  
In memory of Jimmy Snyder  
In honor of Bonnie Snyder

Bambi & Steve Straw

In memory of Ruth Straw

Gillian Taylor

In memory of Betty Schwartz  
In honor of Flora Williams

Norma Turak

In memory of Richard Turak  
In memory of George & Frances Turak  
In memory of Adolph & Cecelia Dennler

Dawn & Winston Whitecotton

In memory of Linda Diehl  
In memory of Leo Whitecotton  
In honor of Linda Whitecotton

Flora Williams

In memory of my precious loved ones in Heaven

Apologies, the  
flower list and  
birthdays were  
inadvertently  
omitted in last  
week's bulletin.



**APRIL**

**BIRTHDAYS**

<b>1st</b>	<b>Andre Viette</b>
<b>5th</b>	<b>Savannah Peters</b>
<b>8th</b>	<b>Gillian Taylor</b>
<b>8th</b>	<b>Tammy Jones</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>Cindy Wright</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>Gordon Putnam</b>
<b>12th</b>	<b>Betty Diehl</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>Flora Williams</b>
<b>25th</b>	<b>Sharon Bartley</b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Debbie Snyder</b>
<b>29th</b>	<b>Amanda Thompson</b>

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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We need your help! The Backpack program has grown to 18 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese       | Kroger meals            |
| Chef Boyardee meals  | Fruit cups              |
| Boxes of cereal      | Poptarts                |
| Oatmeal              | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices         | Yahoo chocolate milk    |
| Apple sauce          | Raisins                 |
| "Hugs" Drink Barrels | All single servings     |

Pastor Gordon Putnam

434-760-0263

Grputnam1949@gmail.com

Pastor Carl Trost

Hannah Pingel, Pianist

Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers