

2nd Sunday of Easter

My Lord and My God!

April 27, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather:

Jesus said to Thomas, "Stop doubting and believe!" (John 20:19-31) Jesus is alive and he is with us no matter what! Peter and the other apostles faced threats from the authorities but they kept on telling others about Jesus because he is alive! Nothing else mattered! (Acts 5:12-32) We also know that Jesus is with us no matter who is against us. When John was exiled to the mines on the island of Patmos because of his faith in Jesus, in the middle of his suffering God gave him a vision of Jesus in all his glory. (Revelation 1:4-18) Keep that in your mind when you go out from church today into the world with all its struggles. Jesus is alive! We're not in heaven yet, but we will spend eternity with Jesus, risen from the dead! With Thomas we exclaim: "My Lord and my God!"

The Season of Easter

Easter is not just a single day – it is also a 50-day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The season of Easter lasts about 1/7 of the entire year. During this time, the worship services focus on resurrection and life and the victory of Jesus. We Christians boldly proclaim the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection and our faith in the risen and victorious Savior.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Stand

Sharing God's Peace with One Another

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Hymn: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship 382)

1. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears,
Bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.

Refrain: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
2. Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all!
All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased.
Hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast. (Refrain)
3. Christ is risen! All the sorrow that last evening round him lay
Now has found a glorious morrow in the rising of today.
See the grave its first-fruits giving, springing up from holy ground.
Christ was dead but now is living. He was lost but he is found. (Refrain)
4. Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased.
Hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast! (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father,
C **Who raised his Son Jesus from the dead!**
P In the name of the Son,
C **Who broke through the gates of death!**
P In the name of the Holy Spirit,
C **Who gives us new life in Christ!**
P Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God.
C **We begin our worship in his glorious name!**

Prayer of Confession

- P We begin our worship by confessing our sins and failures before the Lord,
because he is risen and he promises to forgive us!

We take a few moments for silent prayer and reflection.

A **Lord God, the empty tomb shows your immense power and greatness. We, on the other hand, are weak, and our hearts go astray so easily. We have repeatedly fallen into temptation and disobeyed your will for us. Fill us with the power and victory of your resurrection! Forgive our wrongdoing. Help us to live a new life for you. And on the Last Day, raise us up to live forever with you. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

P The Bible says: "Jesus Christ, who is the firstborn from the dead... loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood." (Revelation 1:4-5) Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P After Jesus rose from the dead, he commanded his disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name to all nations (Luke 24:47) Through Jesus, risen from the dead, we have forgiveness for our wrongdoing, peace with God, and power from the Holy Spirit to begin to change our lives. Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Service of the Word

Psalm 148

P Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens!

C **Praise him in the heights!**

P Praise him, all his angels!

C **Praise him, all his hosts!**

P Praise him, sun and moon!

C **Praise him, all you shining stars!**

P Praise him, you highest heavens,

C **And you waters above the heavens!**

P Let them praise the name of the Lord!

C **For he commanded and they were created.**

P And he established them forever and ever.

C **He gave a decree and it shall not pass away.**

P Praise the Lord from the earth,

C **You great sea creatures and all deeps,**

P Fire and hail, snow and mist,
C **Stormy wind fulfilling his Word!**

P Mountains and all hills,
C **Fruit trees and all cedars!**

P Beasts and all livestock,
C **Creeping things and flying birds!**

P Kings of the earth and all peoples,
C **Princes and all rulers of the earth!**

P Young men and maidens together,
C **Old men and children!**

P Let them praise the name of the Lord,
C **For his name alone is exalted!**

P His majesty is above earth and heaven.
C **He has raised up a horn for his people,**

P Praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.
C **Praise the Lord!**

A **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever! Amen.**

Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

LSB 525, stanzas 4 and 5



4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En-throned in worlds a - bove,



And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord Jesus, your disciples were afraid and full of doubts until you arose and appeared to them alive. You filled them with courage to share your salvation with everyone. We also have many doubts and fears. Strengthen our weak faith, Lord, and give us courage to be your witnesses. In your own precious name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

Reading from Acts

Acts 5:12, 17-32

(The disciples proclaim Jesus risen from the dead in spite of threats.)

¹²Now 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...

¹⁷But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and

brought them out, and said, ²⁰Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” ²¹And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²²But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” ²⁴Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” ²⁶Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to 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.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Revelation 1:4-18

(We know that our Redeemer lives; In the middle of his exile,
John has a vision of Jesus in heaven, risen from the dead in all his glory)

⁴John 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 kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, 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.

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

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia (Melody: Unser Herrscher LSB 901)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior, open now your saving Word.

Let it burn like fire within us. Speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing, for the good new that you bring.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

(Doubts vanish when Jesus, risen from the dead, appears to the disciples and Thomas!)

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.

Sit

Children's Song: Jesus Rose and Now He Lives (Venezuelan Song)

Jesus rose and now he lives, and he frees me from my sins.
Jesus rose and now he lives, and he frees me from my sins.
In my life and in my soul, he gives peace and he gives joy.
In my life and in my soul, he gives peace and he gives joy.
Pam parampam param pam pam.

Children's Message

Hymn: The Day of Resurrection

Lutheran Service Book 478



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

- A **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.**

Prayer of the Church

Jesus invites us to pray in his name for all our needs. We know that he lives and he hears us.

- P We pray for the church, for the world, and for all who have needs.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P God is love! We pray for unity and love in the church and in our families.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Jesus is the Great Physician! We pray for healing for all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, according to God's will, especially for our friends, relatives, and fellow Christians who are on our prayer list.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P The Holy Spirit is the Comforter! We pray for that comfort for those who are suffering, hurt, or confused, especially those on our prayer list.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Jesus is the Prince of Peace! We pray for peace in our homes, in our communities, and in the world.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life! We pray for those who have not yet believed in Jesus, that they may come to know Jesus as their Savior.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life! We pray for those who are grieving, that they may rest in the assurance that the day of resurrection is coming.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Jesus came to serve and to save the lost! We pray for all those who serve as Jesus did, those who serve our country, our church, or our schools.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P We pray for these and other needs in the world around us and among the people we know.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P We trust in you, Lord, for you have power over death itself and you have promised to hear us. In the name of Jesus we pray.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- A **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.**

Sit

Offering

The Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) Christ has risen!! And God gives us all that we need for our lives and for doing his work in the world. With joy we set aside part of what God has given us, for his mission!

Choir Anthem during the Offering: A Festive Alleluia (Patrick Libergen)

1. Alleluia! Sing to God and give praise,
For the Lord is arisen, he is risen from the dead.
Alleluia! Joyful voices we raise,
For the Lord is arisen, he's risen as he said.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Alleluia! Glory be to the King.
Glory be to the Savior, crucified to set us free.
Alleluia! Joyful hymns loudly sing

For the Lord is arisen, he lives in victory.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!
Alleluia! Sing Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!

3. Lift high to the Lord a joyful song.
He died on the cross for us to save.
Give praise to the Lord with a joyful heart.
He gave his life, he gave his life and rose from the grave.
4. Alleluia! Rejoice and give praise
For the Lord is arisen, he's risen from the dead!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!
5. Alleluia! Rejoice and give praise,
Let your voices raise. Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Stand

Offering Prayer

- A **Lord Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and you have given us eternal life! Accept these offerings, and bless them and use them so that the message of salvation and resurrection may be proclaimed in every part of the world. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Offertory: He is Lord (Gaither)

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

Closing Prayer

- P Let us pray.
C **Heavenly Father, thank you for your promise of forgiveness and eternal life. Increase my faith and help me live in accordance with your Word. By your Holy Spirit, grant me the assurance that Christ is risen and that I too will be raised to live forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Benediction

P Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

LSB 465



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
△ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
life And by His pres - ence stills all
day That by our lives we tru - ly
Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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