

the LIFE

LUTHERAN CHURCH
& DAY SCHOOL

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 7, 2024

The core of the Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the risen Lord in the preaching of this faith.

9When 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."
(John 20:19)

ALTAR FLOWERS
To the Glory of God

Welcome!

THE LIFE Lutheran Church is committed to
Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

We journey through faith by:

- REVERENTLY worshipping God
- JOYFULLY serving our neighbors, as we
- TOGETHER live out the Gospel

Visitors: First time at THE LIFE? Thanks for joining us! Please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. After the service, be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor.

Holy Communion: We believe that the true body and blood of Jesus Christ are present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion is offered at all of our services and is for all baptized Christians who share our belief that Christ, himself, is truly present.

If you have any questions feel free contact Pastor Vetrano at pastor@thelifeny.org or call the church office at 516.333-3355

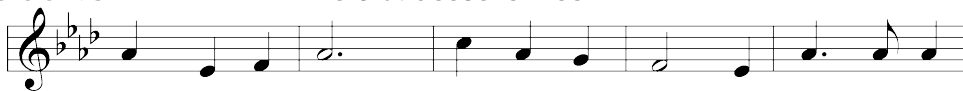
2nd Sunday Of Easter

April 7, 2024

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.

OPENING SONG

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

EASTER LITANY

(We omit the Confession during the 50 Days of Easter)

- P** God of life, we give you praise and glory.
- C** **We praise you, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- P** You have given Jesus victory over sin. You have made his cross a sign of glory.
- C** **May we glory in the cross of Christ.**
- P** With Jesus, you have buried us in death to sin and raised us to new life.
- C** **And we are alive in Christ.**
- P** The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil, washes away sin, restores innocence, casts out hate, and brings us peace, In Jesus Christ, you are \dagger free from all your sins and restored to new life. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Christ is Risen!
- C** **He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Δ 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **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

Acts 4:32-35

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.

³²Now 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. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

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.

¹We 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—²this 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—³we 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.


⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

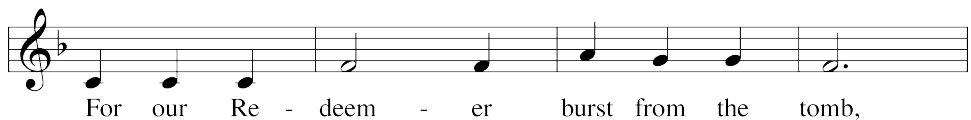
“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.

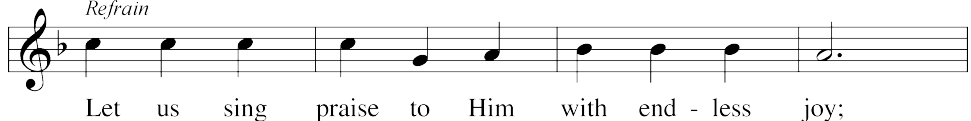


For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death's fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

A The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG OF THE DAY

“When Peace Like A River”



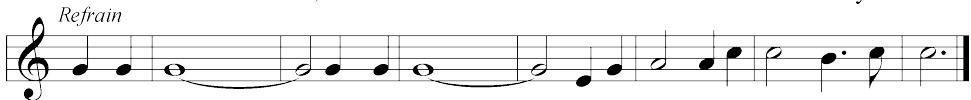
1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.



Refrain

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

MESSAGE

Rev. Justin Vetrano

APOSTLES

C 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 God 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 term catholic presented in this way is defined as universal.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SONG OF PREPARATION “Alleluia, Alleluia Hearts To Heaven”



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—
Je-sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** 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.
- A** 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,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** 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,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain, especially those we name with our lips and in our hearts. (*pause*) God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** 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,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and Praise.**
- P** We pray, Holy living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the Earth and for saving us from the power of sin and death. We thank you for your Son Jesus, who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry and with a love stronger than death gave his life for others. Remember, therefore, His life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for this dying world, that one day we will join with Heaven and earth and all the angels evermore praising you and singing...

SANCTUS means “holy”

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FRACTION

AGNUS DEI

Verse 1

The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

"The Lamb"

Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb
Whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!

COMMUNION SONG

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to
6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'n - ly friend; He lives and



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my
loves me to the end; He lives, and while He



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.
lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.

COMMUNION SONG

Verse 1

As morning dawns and
evening fades
You inspire songs
of praise
That rise from earth to
touch Your heart
and glorify Your Name

“Your Name”

Chorus

Your Name is a strong
and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter
like no other
Your Name let the
nations sing it louder
‘Cause nothing has
the power to save
But Your Name

Verse 2

Jesus, in Your Name
we pray
Come and fill our
hearts today
Lord, give us strength
to live for You
and glorify Your Name

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

G Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

G Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with His favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“I Am The Bread Of Life”

Verse 1

I am the bread of life
You who come to Me shall not hunger
And who believe in Me shall not thirst
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father beckons

Chorus

And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day

Verse 2

The bread that I will give
Is My flesh for the life of the world
And if you eat of this bread
You shall live forever
You shall live forever
(chorus)

Verse 3

I am the resurrection
I am the life
If you believe in Me
Even though you die
You shall live for ever
(chorus)

Verse 4

Yes, Lord, I believe
That You are the Christ
The Son of God
Who has come
Into the world
(chorus)

SENDING

P Jesus said, “I have come that you may have **LIFE** and have it abundantly.” Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: All children are welcome to attend Sunday School each week. Grade levels include **Pre-K, K-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th Grade**. For info, contact Nancy@thelifeny.org

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP - Tues., April 9, 3-4:30pm: Church Sanctuary. Our support group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month and provides a safe and confidential environment to help navigate grief at the loss of a loved one. We are grateful to Nina Gonzalez and Sydney Vetrano, both experienced in the field of social work, for facilitating the group. More info, contact Pastor Vetrano, Pastor@thelifeny.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Wed., April 10, 7pm: Meet in the Fellowship Hall for Spring Bingo. Contact Claudia.Rath@thelifeny.org for more info.

BLOOD DRIVE AT THE LIFE - Mon., Apr. 15, 3:15-7:15: There is a critical shortage; please consider donating. Sign up in the narthex or email Roxanne@thelifeny.org.

VBS 2024 AT THE LIFE - Aug. 5th -9th (9am-12pm) -Registration is open for participants and volunteers. To register visit - thelifeny.org/summer-vbs. Parents can sign up their children to participate, or to volunteer as helpers. Questions, email: VBS@thelifeny.org.

VOLUNTEER AT THE LIFE! Please consider assisting occasionally as an Usher, Reader, Sunday School Teacher, and/or Hospitality Helper. For details, please contact Pastor Crocitto, Crocitto@thelifeny.org.

LSS INFANT LAYETTE PROGRAM: Current requests are wipes (small packs), fleece blankets, size 1 diapers, baby bottles, and newborn toys (rattles and small stuffed animals). Place in outside bin, with "Baby" written on bags. Or order direct shipped thru Amazon, click here: thelifeny.org/fooddrive

HELP THE HUNGRY: DONATE TO THE FOOD DRIVE: THE LIFE continues to collect food items for the Food Pantry of Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Most needed are laundry pods (store brand is fine), spices, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper, baby wipes and diapers. Drop off donations anytime in the covered bin by the parking lot, or donate conveniently thru our Amazon Food Drive link, at thelifeny.org/fooddrive. Info, contact the church office.

LIFE FOR UKRAINE: Together we can help bring Ukrainian refugees to safety and hope through our ongoing effort. Go to our webpage, thelifeny.org/ukraine and click the "Donate Here" button. **All donations go directly** to help displaced families. **Like & follow the LIFE for Ukraine FB page:** facebook.com/lifeforukraine **Donate Here:** thelifeny.org/ukraine

ONLINE GIVING: If you would like to contribute offerings to the church conveniently from home, you can do so securely at this link: thelifeny.org/giving. You can also text your donation to [516-302-4488](tel:516-302-4488)

ANYTHING YOU NEED? Should you need Pastor Vetrano, please feel free to text or call anytime at 516-902-7602

DIG DEEPER INTO FAITH - Bible Studies at THE LIFE - All are welcome!

Monday, April 7th, 7:30 pm – *The Chosen* Season 3 - Weekly Study -- In-person or Zoom - Contact Dcn. Larry Rath, larry@thelifeny.org for more more information.

Tuesday, April 9th, 11 am – *The Weekly Lessons* - Weekly study -- In Person only - Contact Pastor Crocitto, crocitto@thelifeny.org for information.

Tuesday, April 9th, 7 pm – *Daughters of Grace*, Women's Bible Study- Bi-monthly study --Zoom Only - Contact Roxanne Oellrich, roxanne@thelifeny.org, for a link.

Wednesday, April 10th, 1 pm – *The Gospel of John* - Weekly Study -- In Person only - Contact Pastor Vetrano, pastor@thelifeny.org, for further information.