

The Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 7, 2024 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM
Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 6:30 PM

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book 465
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Divine Service Setting One

Lutheran Service Book pg. 151

Introit

Psalm 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3

Congregation chants versus in **bold**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;*
make known his deeds among the | peoples!

Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;*

tell of all his | wondrous works!

Glory in his | holy name;*

let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD | and his strength;*

seek his presence con- | tinually!

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

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*

the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

Kyrie

p. 152

Hymn of Praise - *This is the Feast*

p. 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day

p. 156

The Old Testament Reading

Acts 4:32-35

³²The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving 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 were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we 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 is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he 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 we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If

we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My 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. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.



C Glo - ry 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.”

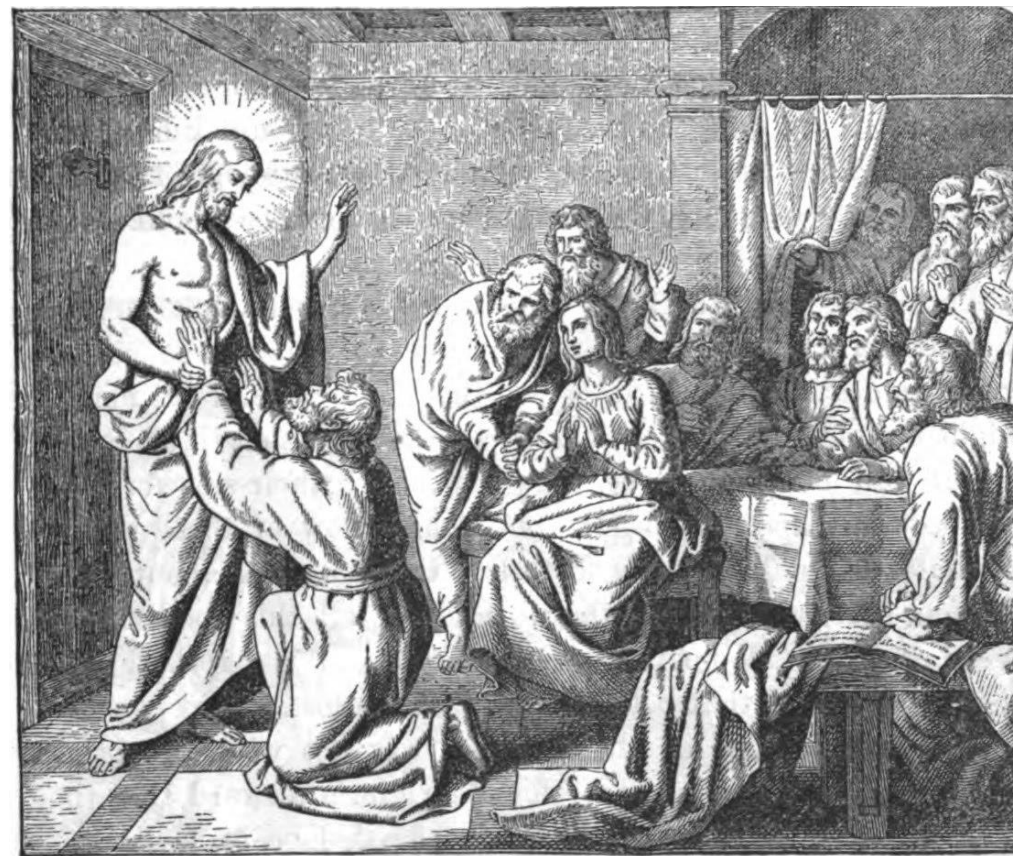
²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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.



Hymn of the Day

LSB 470
O Sons and Daughters of the King

The Sermon

Text:

“Proclaim the Great Absolution”

John 20:19-31

The Nicene Creed

p. 158

The Offertory - *What Shall I Render to the Lord*

p. 159

Prayer of the Church

p. 159

Liturgy of Holy Communion

p. 160

Distribution Hymns

LSB 472, 463, 473, 480

Post-Communion Canticle

p. 164

Collect

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn

LSB 478

The Day of Resurrection

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

Visitors, we welcome you. Please sign the guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor. Also complete a blue attendance card located in the pews and put an X in the () if you will be communing with us. We invite you to join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thursday <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	3/28/24	4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	46 68
Friday <i>Good Friday</i>	3/29/24	4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	82 54
Sunday <i>Easter</i>	3/31/24	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	146 101

FLOWERS AND BULLETINS are given in celebration of Carla Nuckols’ birthday.

WE PRAY for Joe Ananias (nephew of Lori Bolger), Michael Borchardt, Sr., Janet Brown, Melissa Brunner (daughter of Estes Grober and niece of the Gerloffs), Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Kevin Coerper, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Randall Gray (brother of Linda Goetz), Dale Grudzina (friend of the Wangs), Judy Hanson, Elaine Howe, Paul Howe, Michelle Johnson, Patricia Kattner (aunt of Amanda McGraw, sister of Pam Coerper), Marilyn Kolter, May Lindenberg, Barbara Linder, Rev. George Mrochen, Konnie Otto, Angeline Pence, Laurelle Rendon (cousin of Linda Goetz), Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Sherri Syta, and Glen and Jeff Wolffersdorff (brothers of Donna Metzfeld).

SERVICE CHANGE In order to allow more opportunities for our parish family to intermingle, our Pastor and our Board of Elders have planned for a single Sunday Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. This will begin on Memorial Day weekend and end after Labor Day weekend. The Thursday 6:30 p.m. Divine Service will continue.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING for the marriage of Adrienne Renae Hansen (daughter of Scott and Tamara) and Maverick Leonard, who were united in Holy Matrimony in San Diego, CA on Friday April 5, 2024. May our gracious Father bless and keep this union faithful as they begin their lives as one.

SCRIP The next order is due today, Sunday, April 7. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are located in the narthex and church/school office. Place your order and check made out to Our Father’s in one of the boxes, *OR* you may order online with the Presto Pay Plan at www.shopwithscrip.com. The website has a list of participating

retailers. *Also, please note that the website name has changed to raiseright.com, but the shopwithscrip.com link will still get you to the correct page to view vendors or place your order.* Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

OUR FATHER'S LUNCHEON You are invited to the next luncheon on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m. It will be at Benny's Café located at 5354 South 27th Street, Milwaukee. No need to RSVP. Just show up! If you have any questions, contact Jan Wicks at (414) 719-9868.

TROJAN HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK Under the tutelage of Art teacher Mrs. Emily Kim, the students in grades K-8 have been weaving different materials such as fabric and yarn to create wonderful tapestries. Some of these will be on display at the Spring Fair on May 10. We hope to see you there!

CHILDCARE FUNDRAISER The Childcare will host their annual Spring fundraiser to help finance updates and repairs to the facility and the classrooms! We are selling Pops Kettle Corn and Country Meats Beef Sticks! We welcome your participation in this fundraising event and appreciate your involvement! Fundraiser flyers can be found in the narthex of the church or in the school office for your convenience. If you have any questions please contact Amanda McGraw at (414) 282-9057 or via email amcgraw@ourfatherslutheran.org. Thank you.

SPRING CAMPUS CLEANUP Please plan to help clean up Our Father's campus on **Saturday, April 20** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Items to bring: hedger, shovel, rake, wheelbarrow, etc. Tasks to perform: trim bushes, fill holes in the lawn, plant grass, spread mulch, pick up trash, etc. Bring your own gloves and energy! If you have any questions, please contact Jon Kurth at (414) 881-5596.

TOUR THE HOLY LAND in Lent of 2025! Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield will be leading a tour to the Holy Land next March. To see all the destinations **PLUS** an optional trip extension to Egypt, and for dates and registration info, go to registernow.ittworld.com and put in the tour code **Koch25** to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. Note that there is a discount if you register before May 17. If you have any questions, feel free to call Pastor Koch at 414-795-9005.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	4/7	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class SCRIP DUE	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Monday	4/8	Cousins Donation Night BCE Meeting	4:00-7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	4/9	Bell Rehearsal	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	4/10	CHAPEL SERVICE Morning Bible Study	8:10 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Thursday	4/11	OF Luncheon DIVINE SERVICE	11:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	4/14	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.



**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

“Proclaim the Great Absolution”
April 7 through April 13, 2024

The Gospel for this week is one of the few that have a historic anchor in the church year. The appearance to Thomas occurs on the eighth day. The Church refers to Sunday as the eighth day, because, like Thomas, it is then that She sees, hears, touches, tastes, and smells Her risen Lord (the incense used by the Church for centuries enhanced that sense of smell). This total involvement of the bodily senses in worship was another reminder that the bodies of the faithful would share in the resurrection. The bodily experience of worship translates into other expressions of this body that desires resurrection: standing, kneeling, making the sign of the cross, singing, bowing, closing the eyes, folding the hands, and numerous others. This is always a controlled bodily expression to express that our bodies are rightly controlled by the Holy Spirit who will also raise our bodies up at the Last Day. The Holy Spirit is a God of order and discipline, not unbridled emotionalism and disorder.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

THE CREED

VERSE: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:28**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: 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. **AMEN**

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 33

PSALMODY PRAYER: O Lord, we hope in Your mercy and our souls wait patiently for Your deliverance. As You wondrously created the heavens and the earth, so You have wondrously recreated us by Your Word in Holy Baptism. Grant that we may sing the new song of Your new creation in praise of all Your mercies. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Mark 3:1-12
Tuesday	Mark 3:13-35
Wednesday	Mark 4:35-41
Thursday	Mark 5:1-20
Friday	Mark 5:21-43
Saturday	Luke 24:36-49

**CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties
Of Citizens**

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. *Matthew 22:21*

It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. *Romans 13:5-7*

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior. *1 Timothy 2:1-3*
Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. *Titus 3:1*

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. *1 Peter 2:13-14*

Luther, On the Resurrection (1530): In so far as you believe, you are like Christ, but at the same time feel sin and death. By faith you are one with Christ and with him you are risen from the dead. On the last day, it will be manifest, but in the meantime, there is no difference between a Christian and any other man. The Christian lives in sin as does another, except that the Christian commits no gross sins, and when he falls does not stay down. Yet a hypocrite often seems better than a true Christian. You will have to leave Christianity and sin together. In the Lord’s Prayer, there is the confession that we need forgiveness. At the death of Christ, the sun was darkened, but at the resurrection, there were not many miracles. This may have been lest we lose ourselves in speculating night and day about the miracles and miss in so doing the true use of the resurrection. See now what Christ had done to the apostles when he died. They had supposed he would be king of the world. When, then, he died, they were desolate and felt as if they were dead themselves. Thus, God desired that the suffering of Christ should be at work in his

disciples. Similarly, through the resurrection, the disciples were renewed and lived again. And how did that happen if not by the resurrection? It must be powerful, inasmuch as there can be only death and affliction in the Passion. Paul says, “We are buried with him by baptism” (Romans 6:4) and “for thy sake, we are killed all the day long. We are counted as sheep for the slaughter” (Psalm 44:22). Why must we suffer such things? It is in order that we may be made comfortable to Christ. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). What does that mean? There Paul speaks of a wonderful war. This victory has come to us through Christ, and if we have the victory, we can win the war. . . . [Christ] had done many miracles, but on the cross, he was weak. Others he had helped, himself he could not help. He became a sham, and they mocked his words, saying, “He has made himself to be the Son of God.” Then the people turned away from him. He had predicted that he would come again. For that reason, the grave was securely guarded and his enemies supposed that Christ was entirely destroyed, but then arose the goodness of God and confounded the wiles of the devil, for the Divine Majesty could not connive with all this. God summoned the devil. “Satan,” said he, “you have done all the ill you could to me, but I am still alive.” This is the miracle which God showed in the person of Christ. He was eternal life. Blessing and righteousness now fought against curse and death. Temporal death is now nothing against eternal life. It is as if you should try to contain the sea in a little vessel. Paul said not that Christ had overcome sin but that he had swallowed up sin (1 Corinthians 15:55). . . . Just as Christ won the victory only through struggle, so also must we. If his resurrection is to work in us, we, too, cannot escape the struggle with death. . . . I feel sin and death in me. The body delights in sin and fears death, and this war we must carry on so long as we live. The Lord assails us with many sufferings. Death assaults me, but I have Christ who is risen from the dead, as I also shall rise. I will hold to this. . . . Outwardly, I must die as Christ died, but the gospel is a jubilant word, which the flesh hears gladly. Yet it has no effect unless we feel it both inwardly as well as outwardly. (*Martin Luther’s Easter Book*, pp. 98-101)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

OR

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: *LSB 458* “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (stanza 7)



