

## Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

### Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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**Congregational responses are printed in bold type.**

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PRELUDE & BELLS *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

WELCOME

Blessed be the Kingdom...now and forever **and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*We stand* OPENING HYMN

#386

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS✠

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.*

*1John 1:8-9*

Most merciful God... **we confess that we are born captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you- who believe and repent- of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC 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.**

LITANY

*Kyrie Eleison*

Lord, Have Mercy

*2 Corinthians 13:13*



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



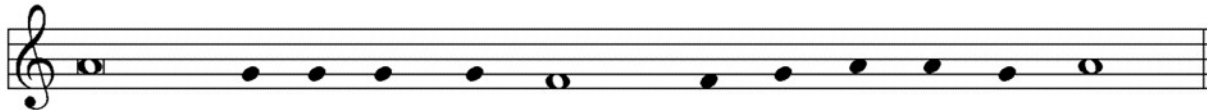
**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



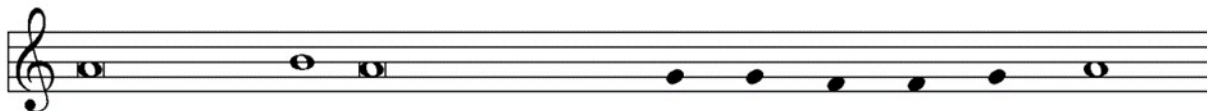
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



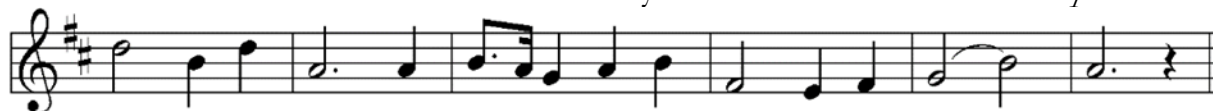
**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



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



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



**B** 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.**

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: JOHN 20:29

*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.*

## FIRST READING: 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 133

<sup>1</sup>Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when brethren live together in unity!

**<sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head  
that runs down upon the beard,**

<sup>3</sup>upon the beard of Aaron,  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**<sup>4</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

<sup>5</sup>For there the LORD has ordained the blessing:  
life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*We stand.* GOSPEL VERSE :JOHN 6:68

P151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 20:19-31

**Glory to You, O 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 **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#389

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

*We sit.* SERMON

*Let's Eat*  
**Big Reveal**

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*We stand.* PROFESSION OF FAITH                  Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the + resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.** \*means whole, entire Christi

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, thank you for being patient with us. Thank you for breathing your Spirit and peace upon us. Thank you for giving us your own work of forgiving the sins of all who seek forgiveness and grace. Give us the faith, hope, and charity to believe, worship, and obey you always.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Breathe your Holy Spirit upon your Church. May it never doubt your Resurrection, and always proclaim you as the crucified and risen Savior of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour your Holy Spirit into your persecuted followers. May their faith in you be unwavering, and their witness to you be gracious and bold.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Breathe your gracious Spirit upon this congregation. Make us hunger for your Word and thirst for your goodness. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus; to support Solid Rock our mission in action; and that you send us adults for baptism. Help us to love you by serving others in your name.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Breathe your Spirit upon doubters, and all whose confidence in your grace has been shaken by tragedy. Use us to lead them into your house. Lift them with your wounded hands. Transform their unbelief into unshakeable faith in you, their Lord and God.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give the leaders of the nations, and to all people, that peace which the world cannot give. Let righteousness and mercy bless those troubled by the powers of sin, evil and death.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The other disciples sought out Thomas when he was doubting and sorrowful. Teach us to seek out and walk with others when they despair of your love. Give us grace to be gentle, patient, yet persistent as we invite them to taste and see your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring the peace of your forgiveness, the healing of your dear touch, and the joy of your salvation to all those who suffer in body or spirit. Today we remember before you: {List}. Cheer their hearts, renew their faith, and restore them to fellowship with all who love them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you have been raised from death. We pray for the families of {List}. You promise your resurrection life to all whom you have redeemed. We entrust into your care our beloved dead. Wipe away the tears of all who grieve. Turn our doubt into confidence. Grant that all whom you have redeemed may see you face to face and cry out in adoration and joy, "My Lord and my God!"

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

*We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."*



*We sit.* OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



*First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website [stpeterhallettsville.org/giving](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/giving) or by scanning this code.*

*We stand* #884

“Praise God”

*tune* #883

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;  
praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

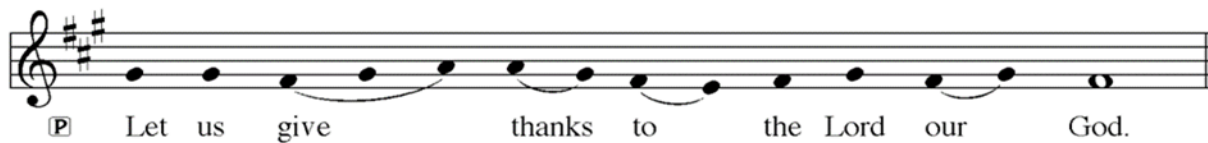
GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:



**C** 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

## *We sit.* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Thanks be to God.**

*Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.*

*(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)*

*Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#195

"Lamb of God"

*John 1:29*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lamb of God" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

We stand POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER  
May the true body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Lord Now You Let Your Servant”

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray, Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

#366

“The Strife Is O’er, The Battle Done”

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"  
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

**ENTRANCE HYMN *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing (ELW 386)***

Text by John Mason Neale; Music by French tune

**1 O sons and daughters, let us sing  
with heav'nly hosts to Christ our king:  
today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia!**

**2 That Easter morn, at break of day,  
the faithful women went their way  
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia!**

**3 An angel clad in white they see,  
who sits and speaks unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia!**

**4 That night the apostles met in fear;  
among them came their master dear,  
and said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (ELW 389)***

Text by Brian A. Wren; Music by T. Williams

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

**CLOSING HYMN *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* (ELW 366)**

Text by Francis Pott; Music by William H. Monk

**1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
now is the victor's triumph won!  
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!**

**2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst;  
Jesus their legions has dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!**

**3 The three sad days have quickly sped,  
Christ rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!**

**4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;  
the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!**

**5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,  
from death's sting free your servants too,  
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**