

The Second Sunday of
+EASTER+
April 19, 2020



Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Thomas

Eight 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.” Then 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.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:19-31

St. Paul Lutheran Church—Preble
4510 W 750 N., Decatur, IN 46733

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Hail, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
When con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

Introit

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

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises 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 continually!**

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

**He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



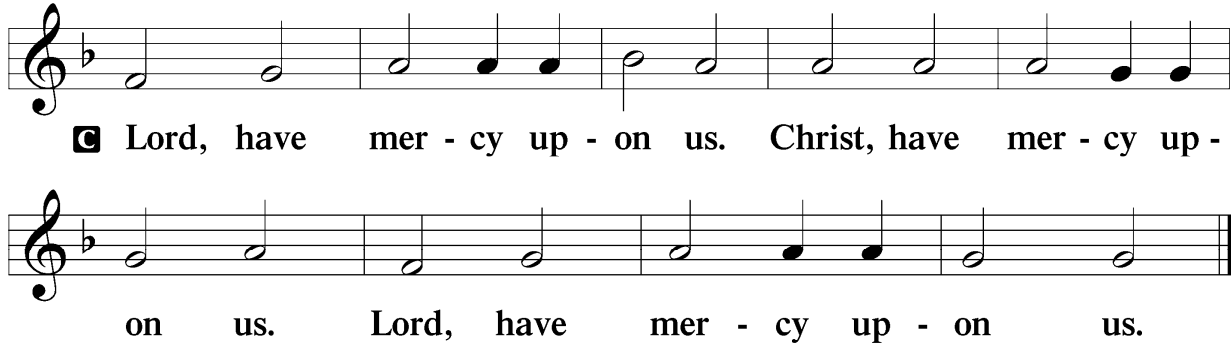
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Kyrie

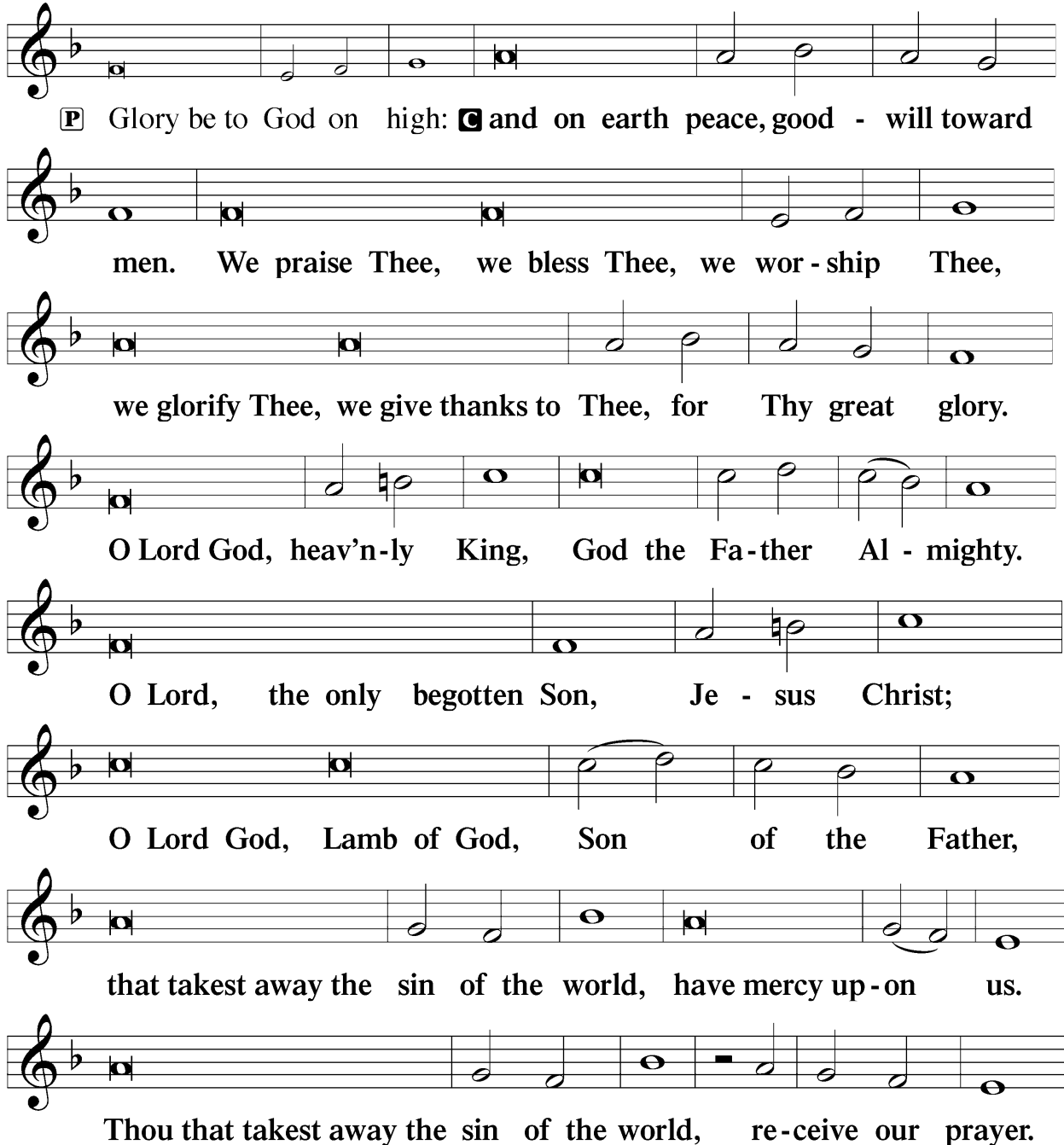
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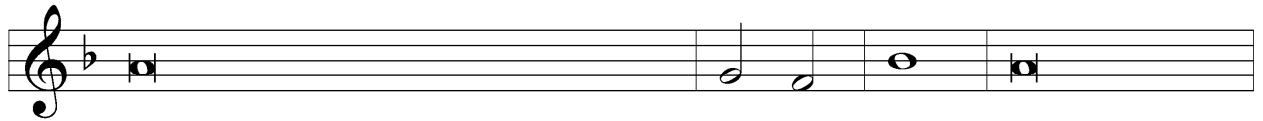
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

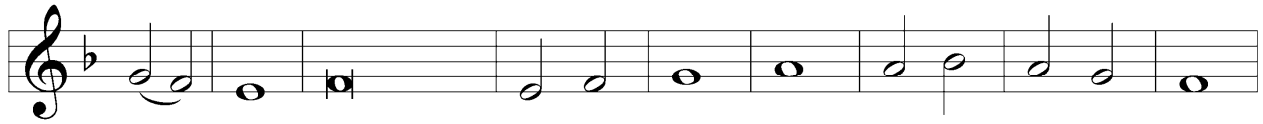
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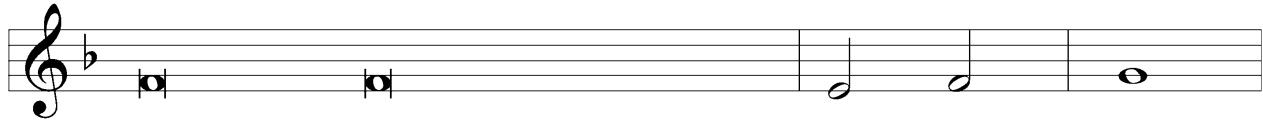
Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

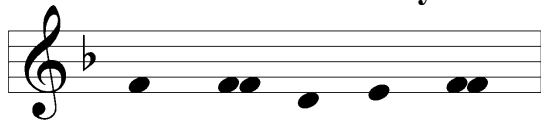


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

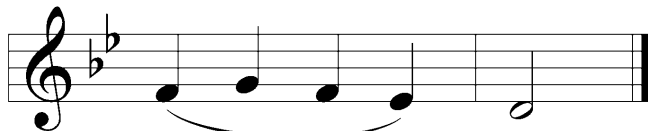


P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P 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.



C A - men.

First Reading

Acts 5:29-42

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."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

LSB 190

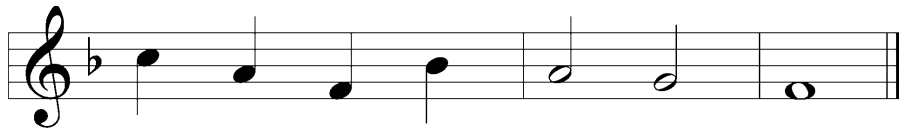


Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

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



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

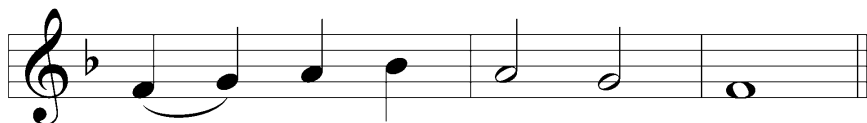
¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they 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.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

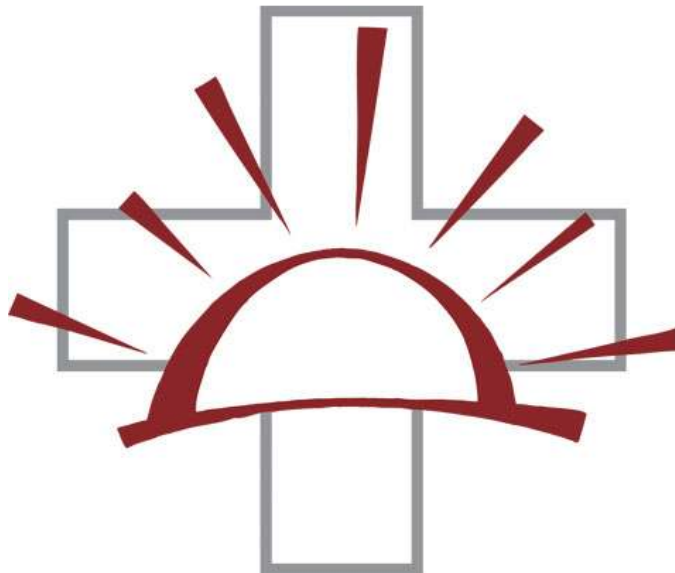
Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,**

**begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



470 O Sons and Daughters of the King



1 O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful
3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."



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!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

472 These Things Did Thomas Count as Real



1 These things did Thom - as count as real: The
2 The vi - sion of his skep - tic mind Was
3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied That
4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve And



warmth of blood, the chill of steel, The grain of wood, the
keen e-nough to make him blind To an - y un - ex -
one could live when one had died, Un - til his fin - gers
thus the ris - en Christ re - ceive, Whose raw im - print - ed



heft of stone, The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.
pect - ed act Too large for his small world of fact.
read like braille The mark - ings of the spear and nail.
palms reached out And beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

Offertory

LSB 192



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

- P** 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.
- C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

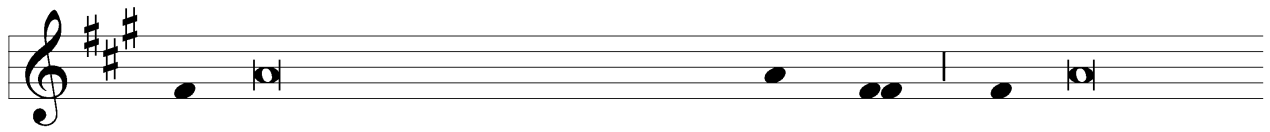
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A Bless we the Lord.

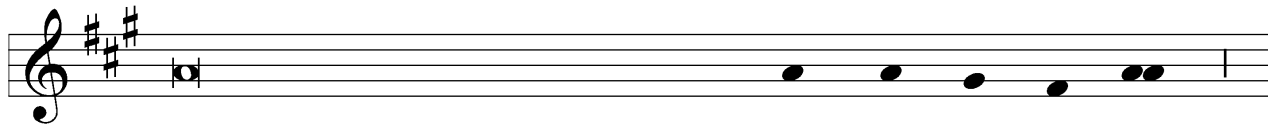
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

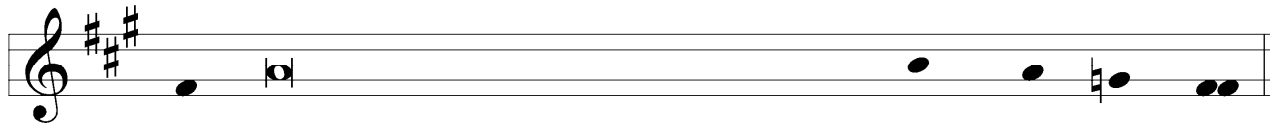
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
 4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
 His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
 Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

The Second Sunday of Easter | John 20:19-31

The disciples are shut up, behind locked doors, afraid. They arrested Jesus, executed him. “What will they do to us who followed him?” Consciences are afraid too. They didn’t come off very strong these last few days. Peter denied Him. The rest abandoned Him. “Set the locks, Peter. Are they secure? Good. Is anyone outside? Look again. No one? Good.”

So much fear that first Easter evening. Like Adam and Eve, hiding in the bushes of Eden, sinners hunkered down in their fear, afraid to face anyone, especially the Lord Jesus in the cool of the day. After all, their sin is great. Denial. Abandonment. But the big sin is that they would not trust this suffering, beaten, crucified and graveyard dead Jesus. What will happen to them now? Some punishment? Some hell? We’ll see. Because Jesus shows up. Resurrected from his death. Steps into the middle of that place of fear-filled sinners, through locked doors. He doesn’t knock. He doesn’t ask their permission to enter. He stands full on alive in their midst.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! And his Good Friday wounds are showing. First words out of his mouth: “Peace be with you.” Really. “Peace.” They are forgiven. He holds no grudge. Not their enemy. Not out to get them. He is their Savior. His Good Friday wounds have won the peace. God and sinner reconciled. “Peace be with you.” Their sins are forgiven. He has put away their sins. All nailed to the cross. All buried in the hole of his tomb.

But why? Why would Jesus forgive them? They do not deserve forgiveness. They have not earned forgiveness. He forgives them because he died for them. He showed them his hands and his side. His death on the cross hands with holes. His side with the spear stab that certified his death. How he brought them his peace. He comes to them. His wounds are showing. Fresh from the dead. Risen. Gives them a holy gift: forgiveness won for them in his bloody Good Friday death. That’s the peace: Holy Absolution. And his words do what they say, give what they say: forgiveness, peace. They are forgiven, absolved, for everything. For all that has gone wrong. Peter’s denying. Their running away, their not trusting him, as he suffers and dies.

What are you afraid of? Whom do you fear? What are you hiding from? Because you are no different from the full of fear, locked behind closed door-disciples. When pushed hard like Peter we deny the Lord Jesus, or run away as fast as we can from his living voice. We are sinners too, who cannot take the chance to trust Jesus with our lives, our sin, or with our death. Sinners really locked in fear, believing falsely that Jesus is woundless, that he had no wounds in his body, because he has done nothing. Or that he will crush you if he finds out what you have done. So you hide: hiding your nakedness, sin and shame, hiding from the Lord with excuses and dried up fig leaves, afraid to trust him with everything, especially your sins.

Right into that midst comes Jesus. The crucified and risen Jesus. The Savior. Not your enemy. He comes and speaks a word that is full of the life-giving, Holy Spirit. The word is the Absolution. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.” Pastors are commanded by the Lord Jesus to speak Absolution like that, to absolve repentant, sorry sinners from their sin, to forgive those who are living locked up and fear filled lives: “I forgive you all of your sins.” Hearing those words, you are hearing the living voice of Jesus himself. He speaks through pastors whom he sends, like he was sent. Like the Small Catechism has it. You receive the Absolution from the pastor as from

God himself, not doubting but firmly believing—trusting the truth—that your sins are forgiven completely, that his word of Absolution does and gives to you what it says.

On Sunday mornings, on every little Easter like today, this first Day of the week, when Christ rose, we begin the Divine Service by confessing together as a congregation, and Christ's living voice is heard in the Holy Spirit filled Absolution, spoken by a sent pastor, to cast out fear and create a lively trust and confidence in the risen Christ, who is ever-present with his Church, bestowing that forgiveness and peace he won on the cross and brought out of the tomb.

The (Temporary) Suspension of Corporate Worship and all Business of the Church. Due to the Governor's edict all services and meetings of the congregation at St. Paul are, for the time being, suspended. Services will be recorded and broadcast on Facebook Live and immediately uploaded to YouTube and sent out to the membership via email.

Park-In Services. The Easter Sunday park-in service was a great success. I would like to thank Jamie Tharp, Matt Gallmeyer, Connie Garner, Pastor Brege, our Deacons, and the tech pros at Innovative Concepts for lending their expertise and service. Since the park-in service worked well, we are going to continue meeting in this way as a congregation for the foreseeable future. Sundays at 9AM, come to St. Paul and tune your radio to 106.1FM. The deacons will pass out bulletins and collect offerings. Participate in the service by hearing, singing, and praying along.

I will continue to record the services ahead of time for those that stay at home and post these services both on YouTube and Facebook, until we can meet together again. Please don't get used to this! Pray to the Lord for an end to this scourge so that we can worship in person and receive the Lord's Supper. If you would like me to bring you the Lord's Supper, call me.

Confirmation. All parents should have the Study Guide with the list of questions and answers to their youth. The most important items for the confirmands to put to memory are those core texts of the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, etc. which I highlighted in my last letter. I am leaving it to the discretion of parents how and when to meet together for the examination. Please call or e-mail me when you have a date and place that works best for you, and we will try to have the elders present, either remotely or in person, for the examination.

Elders, Council, and Voters were scheduled to meet April 20-21. Due to restrictions, these meetings have been tentatively rescheduled to May 18-19.

Wyneken. Graduation has been tentatively rescheduled to May 22, and the Spring Association meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for May 28. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information about both of these. I will let the congregation know when details come out.

Offerings and E-Giving. To continue to support St. Paul and our school in the midst of this crisis, you may mail your offering envelope to the Church, drop it off in a plate by the narthex door if you are near Church, or give online. Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, and others

wishing to support our mission may now provide their contributions through a secure, and Synod-approved online website, titled Vanco GivePlus.

To view this opportunity, simply go to the Congregation's website, www.splutheranpreble.org, click the Online Giving tab in the upper right corner of the homepage, then click the Donation Link provided, set up your online giving profile, and follow the simple instructions. More details will be coming over the next several months. Please contact Tim Ehlerding.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+For a swift end to COVID-19; for those infected and those who have been exposed; For loved ones and caretakers; For those leading nations; For physicians, nurses, technicians, researchers, administrators, and all other healthcare employees around the world; For those who must work, despite the threat of sickness; For those who have become unemployed or under employed during this pandemic; For Churches and all ministers of the Word; For parents and children; For Wyneken and all places of learning; For those who are alone; For all navigating decisions during this time of uncertainty and fear.

+For the Sick at St. Paul: Anita Spiegel; Bonnie Gallmeyer; Ken Schueler; Dick and Ruth Bultemeier. **+For the Homebound & Infirm:** Delores Rumpel, Edna Mesing, Irene Bieberich, Faye Keuneke, Marge Merriman (at Woodcrest); Anita Spiegel. **+Birthdays:** Matt Reinhart, Emmett Dicke, Alana Melcher, Tim Reinhart, Connie Bulmahn, Jean Skaggs, Todd Fisher.

A Collect for Plagues

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust you during this time of illness and distress. In mercy, put an end to the plague that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all who mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause your people ever to serve you in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERINGS 4.12.20

Need Weekly: \$7,049.84	Received Last Week: \$12,155.00
+5,105.16/week	-12,146.77/year

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