

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 12, 2026

*“We Are Witnesses!”*

## THE EASTER ACCLAMATION AND WELCOME

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## THE OPENING HYMN #478 *“The Day of Resurrection”*



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!

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM *(Sunday) (page 268 in the hymnal)*

*The Baptism of Corbin Jason Bekkerus*

## THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(Saturday)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

C: Deliver me from all my transgressions. *(Psalm 39:7-8 ESV)*

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: Father of all mercy and grace,

**C: we confess to You our sins of body, mind, spirit, and tongue. We readily acknowledge with our minds the victory of the Lord Jesus over death and the grave, but we so easily deny the power of His resurrection in our daily lives. We are sorry, and we want to do better. As Jesus came among His followers that night in the upper room, let Him now come among us speaking Your peace, breathing out Your Spirit, and granting us Your absolution, which He won for us by His dying and His rising again.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

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

P: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,

**C: that by it you may grow up to salvation now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

**C: make known His deeds among the peoples!**

P: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!

**C: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

P: Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that He has done,

**C: His miracles, and the judgments He uttered. He remembers His covenant forever,  
The word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.  
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.**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE #477 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:  
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—  
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.  
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

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*(please be seated)*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray, 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:** Amen.

## THE FIRST READING Acts 5:14, 17-42 (ESV)

More than ever believers were added to the Lord . . . . But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” And 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, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” Now 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. And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are

standing in the temple and teaching the people.” Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “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.” Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But 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. And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For 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. After 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. So 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; but 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, and 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. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GRADUAL**

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

**C: [God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**C: He has put all things under His feet.**

## **THE EPISTLE** 1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

Blessed 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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so 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. Though 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

**THE VERSE** *(page 205 in the hymnal)*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** John 20:19-31 (ESV)

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

On 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." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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." 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!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but 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.**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(Saturday only)*

**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.**

*(please be seated)*

**THE MEMORY VERSE** *(from Luther's Small Catechism; on The Lord's Supper)*

**What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King" (verses 1-7)



1 O sons and daugh - ters 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!

### THE SERMON "We Are Witnesses!" Text: Acts 5:14, 17-42

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King" (verses 8 and 9)

**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!

(please stand)

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy" "hear our Prayer.")

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Saturday only)*

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.

## THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✕ give you peace.

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CLOSING HYMN #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 ANNOUNCEMENTS