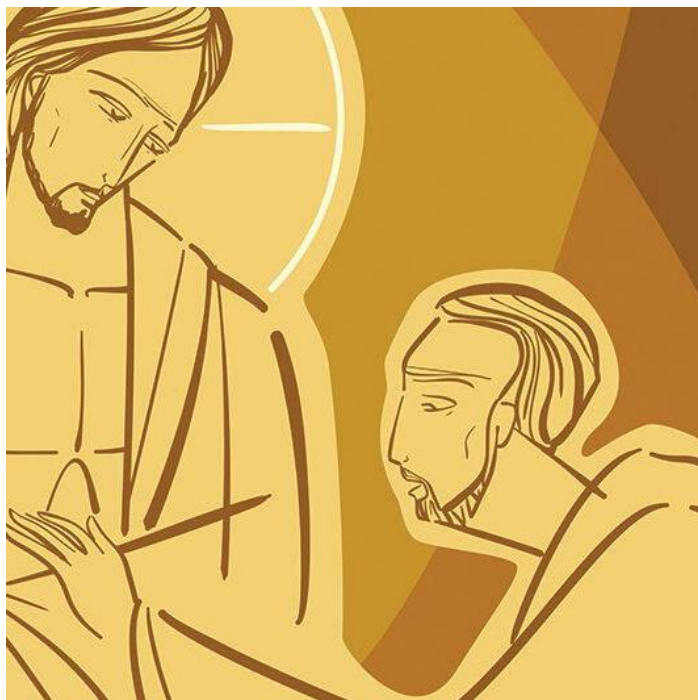


St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street
Greenfield Indiana 46140

*Our congregation's mission statement is to bring people to Christ,
encouraging relationships with Him and others.*



Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

Meditation:

As we gather on this second Sunday of Easter, I invite you to take a moment to quiet your minds and open your hearts in prayer. Let us center ourselves in the presence of God, who offers us comfort, strength, and grace in all circumstances of life.

Today, we reflect on the story of doubting Thomas, a disciple who struggled to believe in the resurrection of Jesus until he saw the wounds of Christ with his own eyes. Thomas represents our human tendency to doubt and question, especially in times of uncertainty or hardship. In our journey of faith, we may encounter doubts, fears, and struggles that challenge our beliefs and shake our confidence. And that's okay. We are human, after all.

Let us remember that Jesus did not condemn Thomas for his doubts, but instead offered him the reassurance he needed. Jesus showed Thomas his wounds and invited him to touch them, revealing his humanity and vulnerability. In that moment, Thomas's doubt was transformed into faith as he proclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus understood Thomas's need for tangible evidence and met him where he was, offering him the comfort and confirmation he needed.

As we go through our own doubts and struggles, we can take comfort in the fact that Jesus meets us where we are, with compassion and understanding. He doesn't expect us to have all the answers or never question our faith. Instead, he invites us to come to him with our doubts, fears, and uncertainties. He offers us his wounded hands and his loving presence, assuring us that it's okay to be human and to struggle with faith.

So, as we meditate on Thomas's story, let us embrace our doubts and struggles as part of our human experience. Let us bring them to Jesus, who understands and loves us unconditionally. Let us seek his presence in prayer, in the reading of Scripture, in the community of believers, and in the sacraments. Let us open our hearts to receive the grace and peace that he freely offers us, knowing that we are not alone in our journey of faith.

May the wounds of Christ remind us of his humanity, his compassion, and his unwavering love for us. May we find comfort and strength in his presence, and may our doubts be transformed into deeper faith. Let us continue to walk with him on our faith journey, knowing that he walks with us, even in our doubts and struggles.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Blue+



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Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

The mission statement of our congregation is:
To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue, Jr. Pastor (Preaching)
Rev. Benjamin Black Sr. Vicar (Presiding)
Dan Petry, Music Director
Angela Rodgers, Asst Music Director

TO ALL GUESTS...

- **THANKS** for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. **Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.** And please come again!!
- **PARTICIPATE**
 - The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
 - **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.**
 - The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the [St. James website \(www.stjamesnalc.org\)](http://www.stjamesnalc.org) and [Facebook page](#).
- **COMMUNE** — All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. **If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.**
- **NEED ASSISTANCE?**
 - **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
 - Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

Welcome to our service of worship!

We are happy to have you worship with us, whether you are looking for a church home, are a new Christian, or are just curious about Christianity. We want your time with us to be as warm and friendly as possible, so we've made a list of words and phrases you might hear during our service. We hope that this list of terms will help you feel more comfortable with our service and get to know its different parts.

We know that some of these words may be new or unfamiliar to you, but please know that our goal is to create a place where everyone can connect with God in a meaningful way. Getting the idea that faith is a personal journey that looks different for everyone.

So, whether you're here out of curiosity, looking for answers to life's questions, or exploring your own faith, we want you to feel welcome, accepted, and encouraged. We believe that everyone can receive God's love and grace, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey.

Please don't be afraid to talk to any of our friendly ushers, greeters, or members during the service if you have any questions or need more information. We're here to help you!

We're glad you're here, and we hope this glossary will help you feel more at home as we worship together as a group of Christians in the Lutheran Tradition. May God's love and presence be with you during and after this service.

Glossary of Terms Used in Worship

Invocation: We start our worship service by calling out to God and asking Him to be with us, just like we would do with a close friend. (Psalm 95:1-2)

Confession and Absolution: In this solemn moment, we recognize that we are human and admit that we have flaws, make mistakes, and sin. With broken hearts, we openly tell God about our mistakes, flaws, and sins, knowing that we need His forgiveness. As Lutherans, we believe in the power of God's grace, which is freely given to everyone who wants it.

As God's representative, the pastor then says the comforting words of absolution, which tell us that God loves and forgives us no matter what. We are reminded that we can start over with a clean slate and that God's love and mercy are never-ending. (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:8-12)

This sacred moment of the Office of the Keys is a reminder of God's grace and the gift of reconciliation given to the Church through pastors. It lets us approach God with honesty and humility and receive His forgiveness as we continue our worship service with new hearts and minds.

Kyrie: We ask God for mercy and help from the bottom of our hearts, knowing that we all need help and grace in our lives and that God is always ready to listen and help. (Luke 18:13)

Hymn of the Day/Praise: We lift our voices in song to thank and admire God for His goodness and faithfulness, just like we would thank someone who has been nice to us. (Psalm 100:1-2)

Word of God and Message: We listen carefully to readings from the Bible, which is a collection of sacred text/books that give us guidance, wisdom, and hope for our lives. The pastor then gives a practical message that helps us see how these teachings can be useful and meaningful in our everyday lives, just like getting good advice from a caring friend. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Romans 10:17)

Creed: Together, we say or sing a statement of our faith that affirms our belief in a God who loves us, Jesus Christ who forgives us and saves us, and the Holy Spirit who guides and empowers us in a way that speaks to our hearts and values. (John 3:16, Matt. 28:19)

Offertory: During this time, we give money to help God do his work through the church. We do this because we are part of a community that cares about each other and wants to make a positive difference in the world for the Good News, just like when we give to a cause or organization that fits with our values. (2 Cor. 9:7)

Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy." We sing a hymn or chant that praises God's holiness, recognizing His greatness and majesty as we get ready for Communion, in a way that makes us feel awe and wonder, like when we are taken in by the beauty of nature or a work of art. (Isaiah 6:3, Rev. 4:8)

Words of Jesus: Words of Our Lord: We hear the sacred words of Jesus from the Last Supper, where He initiated the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. He asked us to remember His selfless sacrifice and receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. As Lutherans, we believe that in this act, Jesus is really present in the bread and wine, and that by having faith, we can share in His grace that gives us life. During this part of our worship service, we can think about how much our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, loves us and how His sacrifice still changes our lives. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 22:19-20)

Agnus Dei: We sing a hymn or chant that shows Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. As we take Communion, we acknowledge His sacrifice and grace in a way that reminds us of His kindness and compassion. (John 1:29 and Revelation 5:12)
We share the bread and wine, which represent the body and blood of Jesus. This is a physical way for us to receive His forgiveness and grace, and for our spirits to be fed, just like when we eat a meal. We approach this act with respect and gratitude because we know how important Jesus' sacrifice was and how close we are to Him. (1 Corinthians 10:16 and John 6:54)

Nunc Dimittis: We hear or sing the words of Simeon from the Gospel of Luke. Simeon thanked God for letting him see the salvation that Jesus brought. We acknowledge that we have also received God's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and that we can leave in peace, knowing that God is taking care of us. (Luke 2:29-32)

Benediction: We get a final blessing from the pastor, who prays for God's grace, peace, and presence to be with us as we go back to our daily lives. It's like getting a warm goodbye and best wishes from a caring friend. (Numbers 6:24-26)

† We Lift Our Hearts in Worship †

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Almighty God,
To whom all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleans the thoughts 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.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

**Congregation: Most merciful God,
We confess
That we are captive to sin
And cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
In thought, word and deed,
By what we have done
An 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.**

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Pastor: 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 therefore declare to you
The entire forgiveness of all your sins,
In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Please stand

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us an - neth.

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turs to life once more;
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris-ing of to - day.
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have in-corp'ed o - ur all.

Grate-ful-ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;

bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears,
 en - gage on his steps et-er-nal-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow,
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found,
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Andante

Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

Kyrie



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and loving God,

On this second Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of the story of the disciples gathered in fear behind locked doors, and how you appeared to them, offering them peace and breathing new life into their troubled hearts. We are also reminded of Thomas, who doubted the news of your resurrection until he saw your wounds with his own eyes and touched them with his own hands. Lord, we are grateful for the profound message of hope and faith that this story brings to us.

Just as you offered peace to the disciples in their fear, we ask for your peace to fill our hearts today. We live in a world that often feels uncertain, where fear and doubt can creep into our lives. But we know that you are with us, just as you were with the

disciples in that locked room. You are our source of peace and comfort, and we ask for your presence to calm our fears and soothe our anxieties.

Lord, like Thomas, we may also struggle with doubts and questions in our faith journey. We may have moments when we question your presence or wonder about the truth of your resurrection. But we are grateful for your patient and loving response to Thomas, as you showed him your wounds and met him where he was. Help us, too, to bring our doubts and questions to you, knowing that you understand and offer us the reassurance we need.

We also pray for those who are struggling with faith or facing challenges in their lives. May they experience the peace and comfort that comes from knowing you, and may they find strength and encouragement in your presence. Help us to be supportive and compassionate towards those who are going through difficult times, offering them your love and grace.

Lord, as we meditate on the words of Psalm 16 and the story of Thomas, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and awe for your unwavering love and faithfulness. May we be reminded of the hope and joy that come from knowing you and experiencing your resurrection power in our lives. Help us to live with faith, trusting in your guidance and following your ways.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior.

Amen.

INSTALLATION OF REV. BEN BLACK AS VICAR OF ST. JAMES

NEW MEMBERS

The Young Family

† We Hear God's Word †

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 22-32 (page 936 in pew Bible)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’^[b]

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Gospel Acclamation

S 205a



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 20: 19-31 (page 933 in Pew Bible)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Please be seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

John Browder

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

At Calvary, Years I Spent in Vanity and Pride

At Calvary

Words by
William Reed Newell

Music by
Daniel Brink Towner

$\text{♩} = 100$ **VERSE**

C F/C C G⁷

1. Years I spent in van - i - ty and pride, car - ing not my Lord was
2. By God's Word at last my sin I learned; Then I trem - bled at the
3. Now I've giv'n to Je - sus ev - 'ry - thing; Now I glad - ly own Him
4. Oh, the love that drew sal - va - tion's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it

4 C F/C C F/C C F G⁷

cru - ci - fied, Know - ing not it was for me He died on Cal - va -
law I'd spurned, Till my guilt - y soul im - plor - ing turned to Cal - va -
as my King; Now my rap - tured soul can on - ly sing of Cal - va -
down to man! Oh, the might - y gulf that God did span at Cal - va -

CHORUS

8 C F C G⁷

-ry. Mer - cy there was great and grace was free; Par - don there was mul - ti -
-ry.
-ry.
-ry!

12 C F

-plied to me; There my bur - dened soul found

14 C F G⁷ C

lib - er - ty, at Cal - va - ry.

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue

Please Stand

† We Respond to God's Word †

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Congregation: 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 the 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 on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall 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 worshipped

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response of the Congregation: Hear Our Prayers

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through our giving of our financial resources. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Instead, we hope that we are able to give something to you. We welcome you to give only as your heart desires. For members and friends, the vision and ministry of St James depends on your giving. We thank you in advance for your generosity. This time of offering is a significant act of worship, and we now offer our offerings and tithes.

Please stand

*I bow my knees before the Father: Ephesians 3:14***We Bow Down****183**Words and Music by
TWILA PARIS

$\text{♩} = 32$ **VERSE**

1. You are Lord of cre-a-tion and Lord of my life,
 (2. You are) King of cre-a-tion and King of my life,

Lord of the land and the sea; You were
 King of the land and the sea; You were

Lord of the heav-ens be-fore there was time, And
 King of the heav-ens be-fore there was time, And

Lord of all lords— You will be. We bow
 King of all kings— You will be. We bow

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CHORUS

down _____ and we wor - ship You. _____ Lord. We bow
 down _____ and we crown You the _____ King. We bow

down _____ and we wor - ship You. _____ Lord; We bow
 down _____ and we crown You the _____ King; We bow

down _____ and we wor - ship You. _____ Lord.
 down _____ and we crown You the _____ King,

Lord of all lords. You will be. 2. You are be. _____
 King of all kings. You will

Medley options: Under the Blood, He Is Exalted.

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.**

THE OFFERING PRAYER:

Pastor: Gracious and generous God,

As we gather on this second Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of your boundless love and grace, manifested through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for the incredible gift of salvation and for the joy of celebrating his victory over death.

In response to your abundant blessings, we offer our gifts and offerings to you today. We give with hearts full of gratitude, knowing that all we have comes from you. We acknowledge that you are the source of every good thing in our lives, and we are privileged to participate in your work of spreading love, compassion, and hope in the world.

We ask that you bless these gifts and offerings, and use them for your glory. May they be used to support and further your kingdom here on earth, bringing comfort to the afflicted, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and sharing the good news of your grace to all who need it. May these offerings be a tangible expression of our faith and gratitude, reflecting our commitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Lord, we also offer ourselves to you, our time, talents, and abilities. May we be willing and eager to serve you and others with selflessness and compassion, just as Jesus modeled for us. Guide us in using our gifts for the building up of your kingdom and for the benefit of those around us.

We thank you for the privilege of being part of your work in the world and for the opportunity to contribute to your mission. May our offerings be pleasing to you and may they bring about transformation in the lives of those in need.

We pray all of this in the precious name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Please be seated

† **We Celebrate the Lord's Supper** †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins

Vicar: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you.

Vicar: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Vicar: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Vicar: We gather around this table, in the spirit of Easter joy, to celebrate the great mystery of faith: the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. As we partake in this Eucharistic meal, we are reminded of your unending love for us, demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and his triumphant victory over sin and death.

And so, with all the angels and saints we proclaim Your glory, as with one voice we sing:

SANCTUS

S 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Jesus

Vicar: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

People: 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. Amen.

Invitation

Vicar: Dear friends in Christ,

As we gather around the table of the Lord on this 2nd Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of the incredible love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who gave his body and blood for us on the cross. Jesus invites us to come and partake in this sacred meal, where we encounter his presence in a special way and are nourished and sustained by his grace.

This is a table of forgiveness, where all are welcome, regardless of our flaws, failures, or doubts. This is a table of reconciliation, where we are invited to come and be reconciled with God and with one another. This is a table of communion, where we are united with Christ and with each other in a bond of love and fellowship.

As we come forward to receive the bread and wine, let us do so with hearts open to receive the grace and mercy of God. Let us come with a sense of awe and gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and with a desire to be transformed by his love. Let us come in faith, trusting in the promise of forgiveness and redemption that Jesus offers to us through this holy meal.

I invite you now to come forward with reverence and humility, to partake in this sacred meal, and to be nourished by the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. May this communion experience draw us closer to God and to one another, and may it strengthen and sustain us as we seek to follow Jesus in our daily lives.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Communion

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. Give Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart;
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. Give Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And us. Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

Vicar : Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of this holy meal, where we have encountered the presence of Jesus in a special way. As we partake in the body and blood of Christ, we are reminded of your unconditional love and grace that sustains us on our faith journey.

May the blessings of this sacred meal fill us with renewed faith, hope, and love. May the grace of Jesus continue to transform us from within, empowering us to live as your faithful disciples in the world. May the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen us, and inspire us to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do.

We are grateful for the fellowship and communion we share with one another and with you, our loving God. Help us to carry the spirit of this holy meal into our daily lives, that we may be a light of your love and mercy to those around us.

As we depart from this table, may we go forth with hearts filled with gratitude and joy, carrying the good news of Christ's resurrection with us. Bless us, O God, and keep us in your care now and always.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Congregation: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and forevermore.

Go forth in the power of the resurrection,
proclaiming the good news of Christ's victory over death,
and living as a people transformed by his grace.
May you shine as lights in the world,
bringing hope, peace, and love to all you encounter.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

† **We Depart in Peace** †

HOPE, ASSURANCE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

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1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pro - strate fall;
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now con - so - rated from the fall,
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord re - all.
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace, dear friends in Christ,
 carrying the joy of the resurrection in your hearts.
 May you walk in the light of Christ,

and be a blessing to others in all that you do.

Remember, Christ is risen!

Congregation: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Worship Volunteer Schedule	Sunday 4/16/23	Sunday 4/23/23
Assisting Minister	Christian Gries	Debbie Mowrey
Lector	Christian Gries	Dawn Hahm
Ushers	Tracy Guffey Neal Guffey	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens- Wooten
Greeters	John Shaw Joan Shaw	Liz Clark Terry Clark
Altar Guild	Diana Clements- Scott	Diana Clement- Scott
Communion Assistant	Karen Bell	June Gries
Acolyte	Eli Stearns	Tatum Crye
Sound Technician	Ronald Kissell	Dan Ivers
Slide Technician	Neal Guffey	Geoff LaFlower
Live Stream Technician		
Bread Baker	Debby Brooks	Debby Brooks
Women's Bible Study Snacks	Debby Brooks 4/17/23	June Gries 4/24/23
Slide Creators	John Browder	Bill Coomes
Children's Sermon	John Browder	Pastor Doug Gast
Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller	Christian Gries Phil Miller