



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 12, 2026

AS WE GATHER



One of the classic Easter songs of the church is the *Victimae Paschali*. Dating back to medieval times, it includes a musical narrative of the resurrection of Jesus. One of the verses begins by addressing Mary, who is a witness to the resurrection, in this way: “Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw when wayfaring.” And Mary replies confidently: “The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection” (*LSB* 460). The vision that Mary had of the divine messenger in a bright garment at the open and empty tomb was a glorious sight. His message, “He has risen; He is not here” (Mark 16:6), was glorious as well. The season of Easter in the life of the church is a time when the glory of God is celebrated by His faithful people. In his stirring hymn text “Thy Strong Word,” Dr. Martin Franzmann writes, “Glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hopes confess” (*LSB* 578:3). Joyfully and confidently, we can share the glory of Easter!

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

471 O Sons and Daughters of the King



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard
6 “My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see,



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the
A - mong them came their mas - ter dear And said, “My
That they had seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed
And look up - on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
 the dis - ci - ples' word. Al - le - lu - ia!
 but be - liev - ing be." Al - le - lu - ia!

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
- C** Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- P** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.
- C** On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Kneel for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

ABSOLUTION

- 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.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



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-va-tion 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 uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



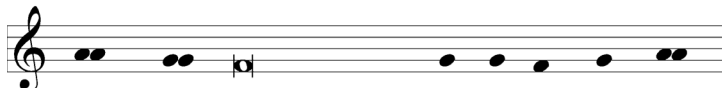
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



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.

THIS IS THE FEAST



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



C 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.



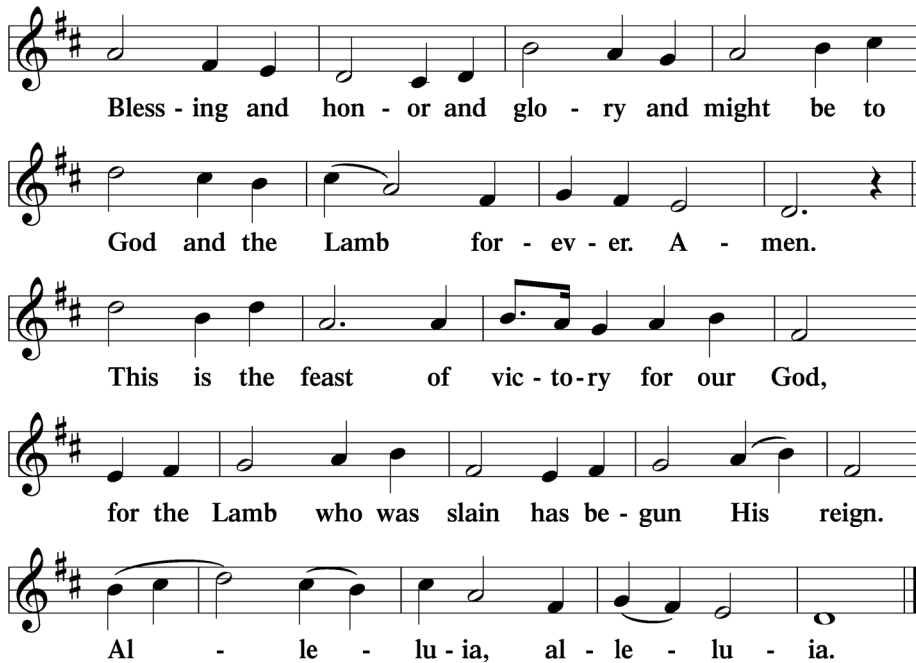
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Sit



A The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 5.

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.**

PSALM

Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13

A Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!

C **Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

- A** Let them praise the name of the LORD!
For he commanded and they were created.
And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
- C** **Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!**
- A** Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!
- C** **Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**
- A** Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:3–9

- A** The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 1.

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.**

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**



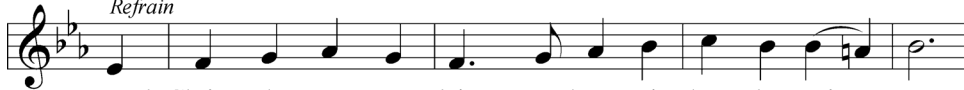
1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

SERMON

The First 3 Words of the Risen Savior to His Apostles

Pastor Ron Weidler

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

- C** 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.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P In peace let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the whole Christian Church, that the peace of God dwell within it and that the Spirit of God work through it, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, grant our petition.

P For the nations of the world and for the leaders entrusted with their designated responsibilities, that true and lasting tranquility be known around the globe, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, grant our petition.

P For this present assembly of God's people, that all gathered here dwell together in peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, grant our petition.

P For those who actively keep the peace and bring about security both locally and around the world, including the armed forces of our nation and our local police, firefighters and first responders, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, grant our petition.

P For those whose lives are in need of a special measure of peace and comfort—the sick and the hospitalized, [*including . . .*]; those who are experiencing changes and challenges, including the unemployed; those who are relocating to new places and situations and the elderly, as they face each new day as it comes to them;

and for our youth—that they be surrounded by our support and our love, let us pray to the Lord:




C Lord, grant our petition.

P For all the saints now in the glory of light eternal, Lord, we give You thanks. Bless us by the heritage of faith that they have left to us in our time and build on the legacy they have given us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and bless us with Your peace. Amen.

Sit

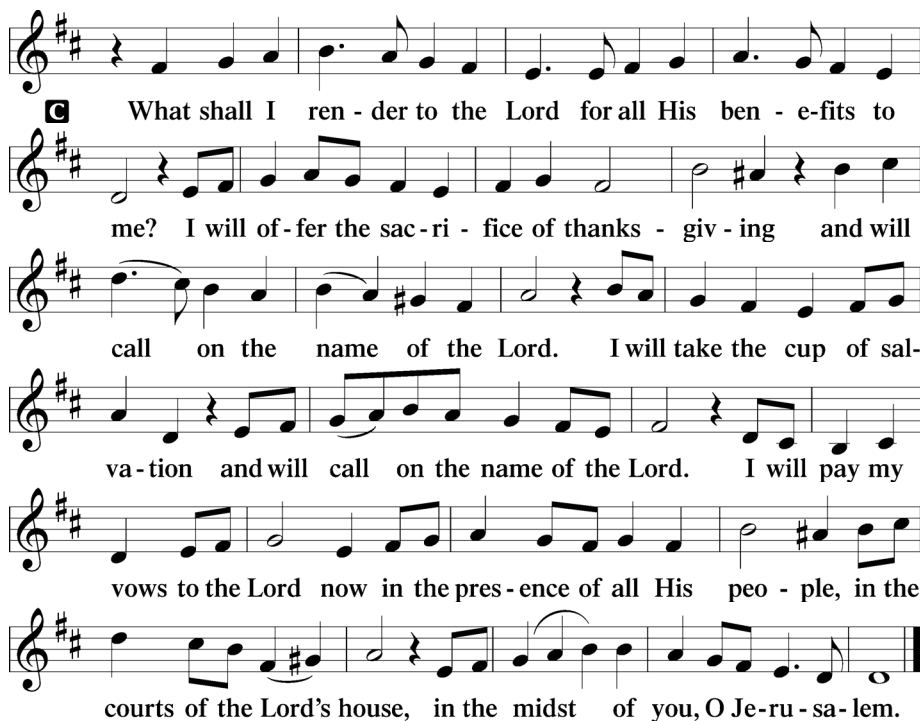
OFFERING

Ways to Give	IN-PERSON	MAIL	ONLINE VANCO		zelle directpay@stjohnslagrange.org	
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Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.

Sit

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS | 10:45am

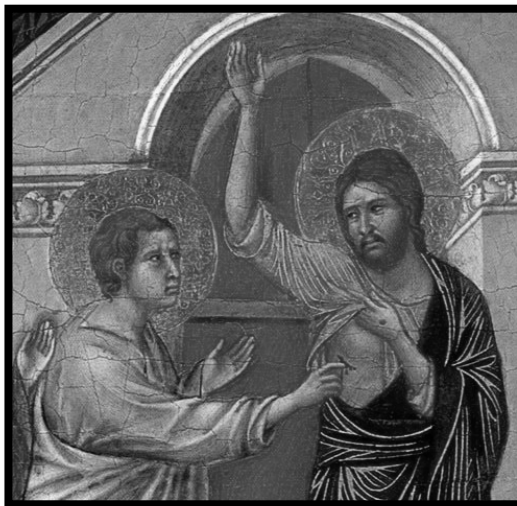
Bob Kuck and his son, Ryan

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.





1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.



Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009

Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922-87

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Ron Weidler, Homilist

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

JoAnn Pyritz, Lector | 8:00am

Chad Hemminger, Lector | 10:45am

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S



The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music program to flourish and grow. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Join the fun at St. John's PETTING ZOO!

Saturday, April 25th, 2:00pm

A GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY – ALL ARE INVITED.

Register to reserve your place!

Children under age 10
should be accompanied
by an adult.



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