

Sunday, April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (local waters may be named).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 368 With High Delight Let Us Unite

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE - Bonnie Drews, page 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

KIDS SERMON

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: “People of Israel, hear this: Jesus of Nazareth was sent to you with miracles, portents and signs as his credentials—which God performed through him in your midst, as you well know. Jesus was delivered up by the set purpose and plan of God; you even made use of godless people to crucify and kill him. God freed him from death’s bitter pangs, however, and raised him up again, for it was impossible that death could keep its hold on him. David says,

‘I have set our God ever before me;
God is at my right hand, and I will not be disturbed.
My heart has been glad, my tongue has rejoiced,
my body will live on in hope,
for you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
nor will you let your faithful one undergo decay.
You have shown me the paths of Life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“Sisters and brothers, I can speak confidently to you about our ancestor David. He died and was buried, and his grave is with us to this day. But he was a prophet, and he knew that God had promised him with an oath that one of his descendants would sit upon his throne. So what he was foreseeing and talking about was the resurrection of the Messiah: the one not abandoned to the underworld, whose body didn’t decay. God raised Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to that.

The word of God for the people of God,

Thanks be to God.

and honor when Jesus Christ appears. Although you have never seen Christ, you love Christ; and without seeing, you still believe, and you rejoice with inexpressible joy touched with glory, because you are achieving faith's goal—your salvation.

The word of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God.

I invite you to stand in body or spirit for the Gospel Acclamation:
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Bonnie Drews, page 5

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, “Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I’m sending you.”

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin”—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, “We’ve seen Jesus!” Thomas’ answer was, “I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound.”

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.” Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!” Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!”

Jesus then said, “You’ve become a believer because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ Name.

The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 939 Touch that Soothes and Heals vs 1-3

We will now take a moment of reflection, to listen to the spirit. This is also a time to prepare our hearts for the offering. We all have so much to share: time, talent, tithe. In the bulletins, there is a piece called Joyful Giving to share what you will give the community this week. Those slips can be placed in the offering basket.

TIME OF REFLECTION

OFFERING Offertory, Bonnie Drews, page 7

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will
hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We also ask that you be with those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts, especially (PRAYER LIST)... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung, Bonnie Drews, page 8)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Invitation to the Table

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (*Matthew 28:9*).

Jesus met the women in their seeking.

Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.

Jesus met them when they felt lost.

Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table.

All are welcome here.

For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

Here at this table we remember that final meal, where Jesus gathered with his friends, followers and loved ones, even the one who was to betray him. And at that table he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy One, through this meal we remember the promise of Easter: death does not

have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, in the language or version of our hearts:

Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name. Your realm come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For you reign in power and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Hymns ELW 635 We Walk by Faith

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the embodiment of unfathomable love and grace,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song **Bonnie Drews, page 10-11**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!