



 **Palestine**
Lutheran Church

April 27th, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

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Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 27th, 2025

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds

ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

(ELW p. 97)

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

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG “Open Our Eyes, Lord” W&P 113**

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O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

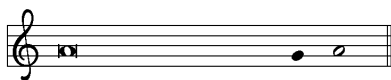
***GREETING**

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**

setting 4 page 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



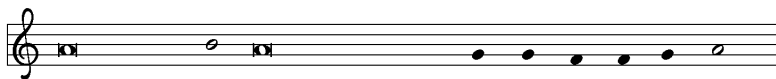
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 118:14-29

- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!
- ¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."
- ²¹ I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵ Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

page 151



***GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children will leave to go to Children's Church

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1st & 2nd grade – Upstairs to the left

3rd & 4th grades – Upstairs to the left

5th & 6th grades – Downstairs

7th & 8th grades – Conference room

HYMN OF THE MONTH: “Blessing, Honor, and Glory” W&P 21

AUTHORS David Reidy, Geoff Bullock; **CCLI SONG #1001179; CATALOG**

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C Am⁷ G/B C F/A G/B
 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.

C G/B C/E F G^{sus} G C/E
 Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.

F Am⁷ G Em⁷ C/E F Am G C²/E
 Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!

F² Am⁷ G Em⁷ C/E F Dm⁷ ¹G^{sus} G
 Seat-ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

²G^{sus} G C Am⁷ G/B C F/A G/B
 God! Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.

C F/A G/B C/E F G C/E F C
 Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb of God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"We Walk by Faith"

ELW 635

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety,

and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*):

Kristy Brownfield, Sam Engler, Dolores Hauge, Betsy Johnson
Alice Kahler, Gemma Lynch, Judy McKinney, Joey McBride, Cindy
Peterson, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Jean Sandquist, Tim
Shoemaker, Pastor Stubbs, Omar Tesdell, Ramsey Tesdell

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across our differences. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places.
We especially pray for:

Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller,
Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick, Lee
Briggs, Thomas Noll, Linda Lewis, Roger Larson, Sally Greve,
Krisha Barrett, Dick Cast, Cheryl (Ness) Shranklen, Marge
Sheldahl, Sandy Wirtz, Shirley Pierce, Ken Larson

Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

*** SENDING SONG****"Thine Is the Glory"****ELW 376**

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939; Music: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759; Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939; Music: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



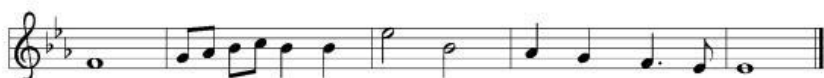
vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Children are dismissed to go downstairs for:



**CHILDREN'S
MUSIC WITH
NELS**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: Jan Rumbaugh

Acolyte: Noelle Hartsook

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Brayden DeVries, Owen Williams

This Week at Palestine

Sunday, April 27th, 2025 *Second Sunday of Easter*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship

Music with Nels

New member orientation

Tuesday, April 29th, 2025

10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, April 30th, 2025

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Quilters

1:00 p.m. Chaplain's Meeting (*Pastor*)

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Sunday, May 4th, 2025 *Third Sunday of Easter*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy communion; Contemporary music service; last day of Children's church; Recognition of teachers
Music with Nels

Lectionary texts: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

Wed., April 16th - Sunday, April 20th, 2025:

Attendance: 21 (4-16) 71 (4-17) 50 (sunrise) 183 (festival)

General: \$4,688.00

Benevolence: \$270.00

Food Pantry \$271.55

Sign: \$3,800.00

Sound System: \$50.00

Youth Group (Breakfast) \$127.00

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support.



VBS SUMMER 2025

**We were made to
magnify God!**

**Join us June 22-26,
2025 from 6-8 pm at
Palestine Lutheran
Church.**

Open to children entering K-6 grade in Fall 2025. Register at: bit.ly/VBSatPalestine

Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

Scar Stories (based on John 20)

Do you know a person without any scars? It is hard to imagine anyone getting through the years without a few cuts and scrapes, or worse. Some scars we regard with a sense of humor, even pride. These tend to be the marks of superficial injuries that we describe in stories with mostly happy endings. But other scars lay bare deeper physical and emotional pain—the scars of trauma, heartbreak, loss. These are precisely the wounds that benefit most from the attentiveness of others but may be harder to talk about.

If you were to guess what physical form the risen Jesus would take on Easter evening, would you imagine that any sign of suffering and shame would remain? And yet, his scars are intact. What remarkable continuity between the Jesus the disciples have known and the Jesus they encounter in resurrection.

Even more remarkable is Jesus' readiness to draw attention to his scars. "Peace be with you," he greets them (John 20:19). Then he immediately shows them his hands and his side, as if to say, "See my scars? These are the signs of my suffering. They will always be part of me, even though I've overcome them."

In this way, Jesus models courageous vulnerability. If he can tell his scar story, defying the shame of the cross, then maybe his friends can tell theirs too. Rather than locking their pain away, the disciples have permission to throw open the doors. They can own their grief instead of letting it own them.

Easter does not erase Good Friday. Risen life incorporates our scars. But by acknowledging our pain and the pain of others, we bear one another's burdens in the spirit of Christ. This mutual caring engenders trust and closeness. And together we can tell our scar stories with confidence, making way for healing and new life.