

Sunday, April 12, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

TODAY'S FOCUS: SALVATION. The imperishable inheritance of salvation through Christ for those who have seen and those who have not (that's us!).

PRELUDE — Scott Anderson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** — Lin

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #304 "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choicest; heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Suzanne Gallagher

One: Easter people, Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we may find questions bubbling up: How do we know Christ is risen? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

Many: Within our questioning, Christ appears.

One: We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the questions of others.

Many: Within our certainty, Christ appears.

One: Whether you come to worship with uncertainty or with a sure and certain hope, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

Many: We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and uncertainty, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025. Used by permission.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

SPECIAL MUSIC — Closer Walk

“I Saw the Light”

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Katie Zuromski

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-9 — Suzanne Gallagher

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

MESSAGE

“A New Birth”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

TFWS #2206 “Without Seeing You” (vs. 1-3)

REFRAIN: Without seeing you, we love you; without touching you, we embrace;
Without knowing you, we follow; without seeing you, we believe.

1. We return to you deep within, leave the past to the dust;
Turn to you with tears and fasting; you are ready to forgive. **REFRAIN**

2. The sparrow will find a home, near to you, O God;
How happy, we who dwell with you, forever in your house. **REFRAIN**

3. Forever we sing to you of your goodness, O God;
Proclaiming to all the world of your faithfulness and love. **REFRAIN**

OFFERTORY — Brendan Krueger

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Suzanne Gallagher

All: Gracious God, accept all that we offer you, our songs, prayers, words of praise, and these gifts. All we have is yours, everything a gift to your glory, even our very lives. Transform the gifts we present to you today into food for the hungry, rest for the weary, and shelter for the unhoused. Bless those who give these gifts, those who believe without seeing, who love without limits and who rejoice in the resurrection. In the light and love of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin [are there any joys or concerns today?]

All: 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.

***CLOSING HYMN** UMH #362 “Nothing But the Blood”

1. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

REFRAIN: O precious is the flow that makes me bright as snow;
No other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2. For my pardon this I see: Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea: Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **REFRAIN**

3. Nothing can for sin atone: Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done: Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **REFRAIN**

4. This is all my hope and peace: Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness: Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **REFRAIN**

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Brendan Krueger

Prelude/Postlude—Scott Anderson/Brendan Krueger

Offertory — Brendan Krueger

Organ — Betsy Foushee

Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher

Special Music: Closer Walk

Accomp.— Brendan Krueger

Song Leader — Scott Anderson

Violin — Rae Ann Norell

Children's Message — Kati Zuromski