

Sunday, April 27, 2025
The Second Sunday of Easter

Service Theme
BECAUSE HE LIVES
WE HAVE A MEANINGFUL MISSION

If Jesus remained dead, all he would provide is an example of a beautiful life. Therefore, if Jesus remained dead, the mission of his followers would simply be to share advice. “Here is how Jesus would want us to love one another. Or “Jesus would want us to think about money like this.” Or “This is how Jesus would pray.” But because he lives, his followers now have a meaningful mission. It is not to share advice, but to testify to what we have seen and know to be true. Christ has risen! Thus, Jesus is not a standard, but our Savior. Jesus is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life. His resurrection to glory will be the resurrection of all who put their faith in him. Sharing that good news—that’s our mission.

456 O Sons and Daughters of the King

CW 456 sts. 1-3



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful
3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee, for thus he



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!
wom - en went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
spoke un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."



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

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615;
Text and tune: Public domain

The Service *Setting Two (page 172)*

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

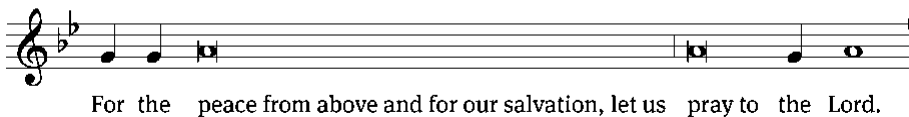
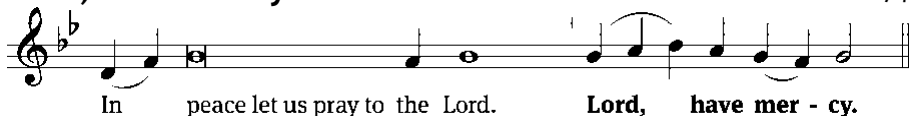
Silence for meditation and reflection

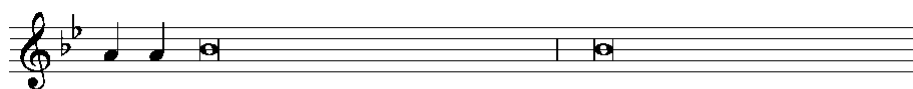
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174





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 worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



A - **men.**

Tune: Marty Haugen

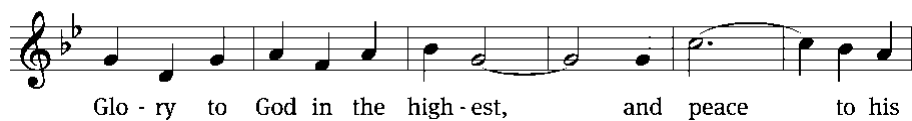
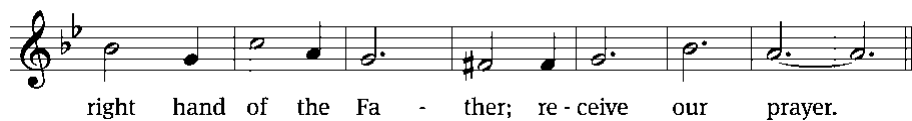
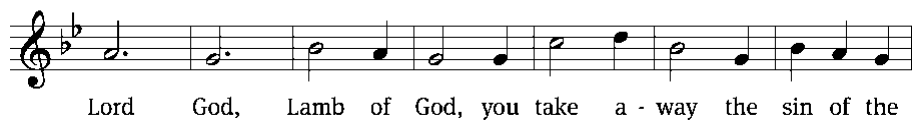
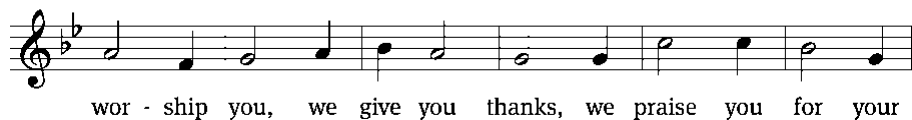
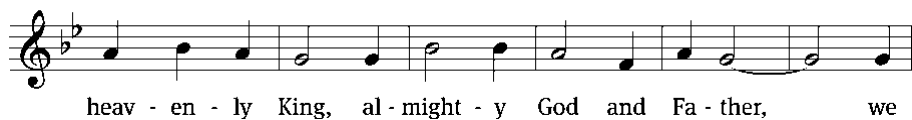
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Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. 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. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 5:12,17–32

The apostles were not going to let opposition and persecution prevent them from fulfilling their meaningful mission of telling others about Christ's death and resurrection.

¹²Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the hands of the apostles. With one mind, they all continued meeting in Solomon's Colonnade.

¹⁷The high priest rose up, along with his associates (that is, the party of the Sadducees), because they were filled with envy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, brought them out, and said, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple and keep on telling the people the whole message about this life.” ²¹After they heard this, they entered the temple courts at daybreak and began to teach.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin (that is, the whole council of elders of the people of Israel). Then they sent orders to the jail to have the apostles brought in. ²²But when the officers arrived, they did not find them in the prison.

They returned and reported, ²³“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!” ²⁴When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were puzzled about them, wondering what could have happened.

²⁵Then someone came and reported to them, “Look! The men you put in prison are standing in the temple courts and teaching the people.”

²⁶Then the captain went with the officers and brought the apostles in without force, because they were afraid that the people might stone them. ²⁷After they brought them in, they had them stand before the Sanhedrin. The high priest asked them, ²⁸“Did we not give you strict orders not to teach in this name? Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood down on us!”

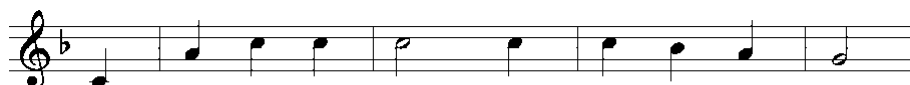
²⁹But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you arrested and killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹God exalted him to his right hand as Ruler and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and the forgiveness of sins. ³²We are witnesses of 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.

150A Sing Praise to the LORD, You People

Psalm 150A



1 Sing praise to the LORD, you peo - ple of grace;
 2 His great - ness ex - ceeds what words can ex - plain,
 3 Where mu - sic is made, let rhy - thms a - bound:
 4 Yield all that you are to wor - ship the LORD—



fill heav'n with the songs that sound from this place;
 and his is the pow'r no force can re - strain;
 let cym - bals and drums add weight to the sound;
 see life as a psalm, each mo - ment a chord;



since you are God's ser - vants and meet in his name,
 with fan - fares of horns and cre - scen - dos of strings,
 with dance that is grace - ful and words that are clear,
 let har - mon - ies flour - ish and mel - o - dies soar—



his won - ders de - clare and his glo - ry pro - claim.
 raise an - thems to hon - or the King of all kings.
 bring joy to the God you a - dore and re - vere.
 let all that has breath praise the LORD ev - er - more.

Refrain



Hal - le! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le! Hal - le!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le! Hal - le! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch

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Second Reading

Revelation 1:4–18

The risen Savior promises to be with his churches as they carry out the meaningful mission of sharing the light of the gospel.

⁴John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

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

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood ⁶and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

⁷Look, he is coming with clouds,
and every eye will see him,
including those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him.

Yes. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty.

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁰I was in spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, ¹¹saying, “Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

¹²I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was one like a son of man.

He was clothed with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing flames. ¹⁵His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all its brightness.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last— ¹⁸the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have be - lieved.

Refrain

Jesus lovingly deals with our doubts and provides us with peace so that we might be empowered to carry out the meaningful mission of sharing Christ's forgiveness.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”

²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book.

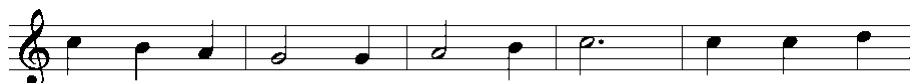
³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

456 O Sons and Daughters of the King

CW 456 sts. 4–8



4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them
 5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard that Je - sus
 6 "Thom - as, be - hold my side," said he, "my hands, my
 7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied; he saw the
 8 Bless - ed are they that have not seen and yet whose



came their Lord most dear and said, "My peace be with you here."
 had ful - filled his word, he doubt - ed that it was the Lord.
 feet, my bod - y see; and doubt not, but be - lieve in me."
 feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God," he cried.
 faith has con - stant been; in life e - ter - nal they shall reign.



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

ext: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615;

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The Resurrection of the Dead:

- 1) We are pitiful without it.
- 2) We are privileged because of it.

¹²Now if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is pointless, and your faith is pointless too. ¹⁵Then we are even guilty of giving false testimony about God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise, if it were true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. ¹⁹If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

447 - Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed CW 447 sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our
 2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -
 3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry
 ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their
 and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal-le - lu - jah!" v. 2
 friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!
 have not seen, yet sing "Hal-le - lu - jah!" v. 4



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -



lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." v. 3/v. 5

4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
 they preached the truth and pow'r of grace
 and pouring out their lives they gained
 life, life everlasting. (Refrain)

5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave
 now works in us to pow'r'f'ly save.
 He frees our hearts to live his grace;
 go, tell of his goodness. (Refrain)

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.
Amen.

746 I Love to Tell the Story

CW 746 sts. 1, Ref, 2, 2-3



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 Christ Je - sus, pure and ho - ly, with - out a spot or stain,
2 O won - der - ful re - demp - tion! The price for sin is paid,
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
by wick - ed hands was tak - en, was cru - ci - fied and slain!
sal - va - tion is ac - com - plished, my heart is un - a - fraid,
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know it's true;
And now the work is fin - ished, the sin - ner's debt is paid,
for God has raised Christ Je - sus to show the work was done;
And when in scenes of glo - ry I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
be - cause on Christ the Right - eous the sin of all was laid.
his glo - rious res - ur - rec - tion de - clared the vic - t'ry won!
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text (sts. 1-2, 2-3): Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835-1912, refrain

Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Church Cleaners

May 4 – Luke // May 11 – Timothy

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (27) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
- We (30) 11:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)**
5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Th (1) 10:30 am Longfield Manor**
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (2) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Romans 9-16)**
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Sa (3) 11:00 am Communicating Christ (Youth)**
- Su (4) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
11:30 am First Fellowship
12:00 pm Long Range Planning Meeting
3:00 pm Communion Service in Poltimore

Pastor's Conference in Rochester from May 5 - 7

- Th (8) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)**
- Fr (9) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Romans 9-16)**
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Sa (10) 11:00 am Communicating Christ (Youth)**
- Su (11) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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