

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter Light—Glorious Light

April 12, 2026



## AS WE GATHER

“Seeking dedicated worker. Suffering not optional.” If we were to read that simple line in a job posting, it certainly would give us pause. People generally want to avoid suffering at any cost. Scripture reminds us that there may be a dynamic of discomfort to faith-filled living that follows the call of the risen Savior. In his hymn text “Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake” from the 1600s, Johann Scheffler concludes, “Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to His Word, in suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain” (*LSB* 688:5). The challenges of the twenty-first century may differ from those of the seventeenth, but they are just as real. Our Lord promises that He is always with us on our life’s journey. With Easter joy, we travel onward together toward His glorious heavenly kingdom!

## ✕ PREPARATION ✕

### THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Pastor: The light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**      *LSB* 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!**  
Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!  
From the grave will Christ recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.
  
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne**  
High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone,  
Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.
  
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,**  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to Him and glory giving.

All I need God will dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well  
Nothing me from Him shall sever.  
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell  
Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be my sure defense;  
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death  
But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath  
When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:  
Jesus is my confidence!

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### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b; Psalm 145:1, 5, 6b*

Pastor: Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

People: **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastor: I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

People: **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Micah 6:6–8*

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.

People: **“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?**

*Women:* “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

*Men:* “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

People: **“Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”**

Pastor: He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

People: **Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for**

**these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.**

**Pastor:** God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

**☩ WORD ☩**

**HYMN**      LSB 464 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done  
ref **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
Now is the victor's triumph won;  
Now be the song of praise begun.  
Alleluia!**
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!**
- 3 The three sad days have quickly sped,  
He rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head!  
Alleluia!**
- 4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;  
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.  
Alleluia!**
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to Thee.  
Alleluia! Refrain**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:**       **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**   *Acts 5:29–42*

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to 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.” 33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But 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. 35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For 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. 37 After 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. 38 So 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; 39 but 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, 40 and 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. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

**Pastor:**       This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**       **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**       *1 Peter 1:3–9*

Blessed 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, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so 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. 8 Though 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, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Pastor:**       This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**       **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**      *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

**People:**      **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *John 20:19–31*

**Pastor:**      The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

**People:**      **Glory to You, O Lord.**

On 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." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22 And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 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."

26 Eight 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." 27 Then 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." 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 believed."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but 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.

**Pastor:**      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**      **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      LSB 471 O Sons and Daughters of the King  
ref Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**1**    **O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia!**

**2**    **That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way**

To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia!

3 An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sits and speaks unto the three,  
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”  
Alleluia!

4 That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, “My peace be with you here.”  
Alleluia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples’ word.  
Alleluia!

6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be.”  
Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.  
Alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia! Refrain

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## SERMON

### CATECHISM *The First Article*

Pastor: In the First Reading, Luke records that Peter and the apostles spoke plainly of the action of God as they proclaimed the resurrection from the dead of Jesus. They plainly stated “The God of our fathers raised Jesus. . . God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior” (Acts 5:30–

31). The First Article of the Creed is focused on God, our Creator, from whom our divine Savior, Jesus Christ, was begotten before all worlds.

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

**Pastor:** What does this mean?

**People:** I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**OFFERING** Rooke Family "Christ Is Risen"

**OFFERTORY** Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you!  
Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone,  
But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,  
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia!

CCLI Song # 1352

Karen Lafferty

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✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE** 2 Timothy 4:22

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, whose love daily attends us and whose peace blesses us in countless ways. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we worthily receive the bread and wine, that is the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of the full salvation He has won for us. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. Unite us with all who gather with us at Your Table here and with all in Your glorious presence who now feast at Your eternal table in the courts of heaven. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**SANCTUS** LSB 507 Holy, Holy, Holy

**1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;**  
**Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who of Your tender love for all people gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon Himself and to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. As we celebrate His glorious resurrection, we pray that we be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy; and also that we, in receiving the forgiveness of sins, together with the gifts of life and salvation, be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and have our portion with all Your saints in light. To You, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in Your holy church, forever and ever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** **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.

### **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

### **AGNUS DEI HYMN** LSB 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy vs 1

1 Lamb of God, pure and holy,  
Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us,  
Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

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### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

**There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

Verse 4

**No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

CCLI Song # 3350395

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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LSB 480 He's Risen, He's Risen

- 1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**
- 2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**
- 3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**
- 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.**
- 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:  
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

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**HYMN LSB 506 Glory Be to God the Father**

- 1 Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit:  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory  
While eternal ages run!**
- 2 Glory be to Him who loved us,  
Washed us from each spot and stain;  
Glory be to Him who bought us,  
Made us kings with Him to reign!  
Glory, glory  
To the Lamb that once was slain!**
- 3 Glory to the King of angels,  
Glory to the Church's King,  
Glory to the King of nations;  
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!  
Glory, glory  
To the King of glory sing!**
- 4 Glory, blessing, praise eternal!  
Thus the choir of angels sings;  
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!  
Thus its praise creation brings.  
Glory, glory,  
Glory to the King of kings!**

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**HYMN LSB 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing vs 1**

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that the lips which have sung your praise in the sanctuary may glorify You in the world, that the ears which have heard the voice of Your songs may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute, that the eyes which have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope, that the tongues which have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth, and that the bodies of all who have tasted of Your Son's living body and blood may be restored to newness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **HYMN**                      Living Hope

Verse 1

**How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Verse 2

**Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Chorus

**Hallelujah praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Verse 3

**Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe**

**Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me**

**(REPEAT)**

**Jesus, Yours is the victory**

**Chorus = 2x's**

**Hallelujah praise the One who set me free**

**Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me**

**You have broken every chain**

**There's salvation in Your name**

**Jesus Christ my living hope**

**Ending**

**Jesus Christ my living hope**

**Oh God, You are my living hope**

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Brian Johnson | Phil Wickham

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