

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Connecting People to Christ Now and Forever

The Second Sunday of Easter **April 7, 2024 | 8:15am**

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Thank you for worshipping at home with us at King of Kings! Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will draw you closer to the living God through your time of worship today and strengthen your connection to Christ our Savior.

PARTICIPATION IN HOLY COMMUNION

St. Paul urges us to examine ourselves before partaking of Holy Communion (*1 Cor. 1:28*). We urge you to do so, on the basis of these questions.

- 1. Do you believe you are a sinner? (*Romans 3:23*)**
- 2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (*Psalms 51:17*)**
- 3. Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior? (*Romans 5:6-8*)**
- 4. Do you intend with the power of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? (*Romans 6:1-4*)**
- 5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true Body and Blood along with the blessed bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins?**

In the Lutheran Church, Holy Communion, is considered a public confession of our common faith. If you are a visitor unfamiliar with the teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, out of respect for your own faith tradition, we invite you to receive a blessing by placing your right hand over your heart when you come forward.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Awake, My Heart, With Gladness – LSB 467

Verses 1, 2, 3, 6

Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted when Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, his boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; in glorious victory
He who is strong to save has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens—what peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.

Now I will cling forever to Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.

Text: Paul Gerhardt | Tune: Johann Cruger | Lutheran Service Book #467

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present**

and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **(♪) Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **(♪) Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.

C **(♪) Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **(♪) Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **(♪) Amen.**

This Is the Feast

C **(♪) This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together. Almighty God,

C **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. Amen.**

Service of the Word

First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:24–27

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C (♩) Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹On 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." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶Eight 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

These Things Did Thomas Count as Real – LSB 472

Alternate tune: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (*"Hamburg"*)

These things did Thomas count as real: the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone, the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

The vision of his skeptic mind was keen enough to make him blind
To any unexpected act too large for his small world of fact.

His reasoned certainties denied that one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like braille the markings of the spear and nail.

May we, O God, by grace believe and thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw imprinted palms reached out and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, © 1984 Oxford University Press | Tune: Lowell Mason | LSB Hymn License no. 110004465 | Lutheran Service Book #472

Sermon

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord in Your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☩ Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C (♩) **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C (♩) **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C (♩) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C (♩) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

☩ 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

☩ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☩ (J) Amen.

Agnus Dei

**☩ (J) Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Participation in Holy Communion

St. Paul urges us to examine ourselves before partaking of Holy Communion (*1 Cor. 1:28*). It is only right that we first recognize our sin before receiving God's grace in this holy meal. In the Lutheran Church, Holy Communion, is considered a public confession of our common faith. If you are a visitor unfamiliar with the teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, out of respect for your own faith tradition, we invite you to receive a blessing. Place your right hand over your heart with your head bowed to receive a blessing.

Distribution Hymn

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise – LSB 680

Thine the amen Thine the praise, alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head, Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story, Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally, Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree, all the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing, gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes, Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee, Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing, Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize, Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story, then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night, no more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree, then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy, celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House | Tune: Carl Schalk | LSB Hymn License no. 110004465 | Lutheran Service Book #680

Thank the Lord

C (♩) **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

Crown Him With Many Crowns – LSB 525

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns as thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is king of all.

Text: Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring | Tune: George J. Elvey | Lutheran Service Book #525

Sending

P With boldness and courage we go now, believing this eternal truth...

C God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and authority to do the good works He has prepared for us to do. Amen.

Acknowledgments

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