

April 6 & 7, 2024

## DIVINE SERVICE II

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we are surrounded by people living and dying in denial and disillusionment.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we continue celebrating Easter, thanking our Lord for the peace, safety, security, and life we have right with God in our risen Jesus. We welcome Daniel Gensmer, a middler (second-year student) at our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

### OPENING HYMN

*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"*

**Hymn 442**

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!  
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!  
see the place where he was laid; Alleluia!  
praise him for the ransom paid. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!  
sinless in the sinners' stead. Alleluia!  
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!  
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!  
while, in strange and awe-full strife, Alleluia!  
met together death and life. Alleluia!

Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia!  
now the firstborn from the dead, Alleluia!  
throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!  
lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**I deserve to be cast away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

*“Like the Golden Sun Ascending”*

**Hymn 470 vs. 2, 3, & 4**

Thanks to you, O Christ victorious! Thanks to you, O Lord of life!  
Death has now no power o’er us, you have conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because you did arise and have opened paradise!  
None can fully sing the glory of the resurrection story.

You have died for my transgression, all my sins on you were laid.  
You have won for me salvation, on the cross my debt was paid.  
From the grave I shall arise and shall meet you in the skies.  
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

For the joy your advent gave me, for your gospel’s great reward,  
for your baptism which has saved me, for your supper and your Word;  
for your death, the bitter scorn, for your resurrection morn:  
Lord, I thank you and extol you, and in heav’n I shall behold you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

FIRST READING

*Romans 8:31–39*

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one.

Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 16A*

*Introduction (first time only)*



*Refrain*



My heart, there-fore, is glad, and my tongue re-joic - es;



my bod - y al - so will rest, will rest se - cure.

*Tone*



LORD, you alone are my portion / and my cup;  
you make my / lot secure.  
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant / places;  
surely I have a delightful in- / heritance.  
I keep my eyes always / on the LORD.  
With him at my right hand, I will not be / shaken. *Refrain*

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue re- / joices;  
my body also will / rest secure,  
because you will not abandon me to the realm / of the dead,  
nor will you let your Holy One / see decay.  
You make known to me the / path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at / your right hand.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*John 20:29*

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.  
Alleluia.

#### GOSPEL

*John 20:19–31*

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, 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!**

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"*

**Hymn 444**

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me.  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To him the throne high o'er heav'n and earth 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.

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.

Jesus lives! I know full well nothing me from him shall sever.  
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be a sure defense; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death but the gate to 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!

SERMON

*"Be Confident, God is for You!"*

Romans 8:31-39

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## EASTER PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**



## THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Sanctus*

**O holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven  
In countless ways recite.**

**Hosanna! Come and save us,  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy  
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!  
How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage—  
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

M: Blessed are you, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his victory over the grave, our Savior declared death's reign ended, the door to heaven open, and the payment for sin complete.

We celebrate with joy the glorious resurrection of your Son.

We marvel at the depth of your love.

We stand in awe of your power.

We are humbled by the compassion you have shown our fallen race.

Lead us to rejoice in the pardon offered and sealed in this Sacrament and to live a life worthy of your name. The Lord Jesus lives! Alleluia.

**C: Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

#### LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei* (Sung)

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 your peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

Hymn 675

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,  
who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we him whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine,  
gives his body for the feast— Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured,  
death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel’s hosts triumphant go thro’ the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal victim, paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath you lie.  
You have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;  
you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;  
from sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

## CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## BLESSING

M: 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 give you peace. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*"He Is Arisen! Glorious Word"*

Hymn 461

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
the gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die,  
and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.  
O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving.  
He was dead but now is living!

## OFFERING

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## **How Would You Re-Invest in Growing Ministry?**

Our St. John Trust Fund has grown back to the point our Investment Committee (Tim Knoebel, Jim thies, and Steve Lemerand) has authorized a \$20,000 distribution (~4% of 2023 year-end total). Now our Planned Giving Committee (Tim Knoebel, Nancy Toberman, and Ray Linnemann) will be seeking your input for how to re-invest this \$20,000 into new and expanding ministry. The bylaws\* that authorize these funds stipulate:

### **Projects eligible for Trust funds**

1. The purpose of this Trust is not to cover normal expenses or debt of the congregation. Therefore Funds shall not be used to cover normal budget items, budget shortfalls, or even budget “emergencies.”  
Furthermore, in accordance with the Forward with Lutheran Schools Support Statement of June 18, 2009, the Trust Fund will not be used for tuition assistance. [When our Trust Fund was first funded, we also funded our Tuition Grant Fund.]
2. Funds may be spent on Ministry Projects that are special and / or expand our ministry at St John, inside or outside the congregation.
3. Funds may only be spent on projects recommended by the Planned Giving Committee to the Church Council, and approved by the Voters.

To stir your heart and mind to possible ways to re-invest this year’s \$20,000 into ministry, here are some suggestions from our Planned Giving Committee, and others:

- \$10,000 to WELS for the 2nd-career teacher program via Competency-Based Education, a program designed to help alleviate our teacher shortage
- \$10,000 to WELS Pastoral Studies Institute training non-traditional background pastors, so that they can “train and learn in place” without uprooting their families for years

Other ministries considered were:

- 100 Missions in 10 Years
- Bangladesh/Asia Mission Activity - our 2024 Special Mission
- Christian Family Solutions - we live in an age of hurting hearts helped by one-on-one counseling with the heart and Word of Jesus

Other ministries that would fit our goals:

- Shoreland Lutheran High School - Shoreland is starting a building expansion campaign
- EveryOne Outreach at St. John - We are seeking to expand our Outreach Ministry!
- Pioneers at St. John - Our renewed Pioneer program is eager for new supplies!
- A St. John Future Called Worker Scholarship Fund - we have young people looking ahead to full-time ministry as pastors and teachers. How can we support them into and through college?

Later this spring you will have opportunity to share your suggestions and discuss with the Planned Giving Committee (PGC). The PGC will then present their recommendation to the Ministry Council for discussion, and then to the Voters for approval.

\*Would you like to read more bylaws? We have copies in the office.

## **ENROLLMENT SEASON HAS BEGUN!**

We are excited to open enrollment season at St. John Lutheran School for the 2024-2025 school year!

We would love to discuss partnering together with you in the Christian education of your child. St. John emphasizes creating intellectual curiosity in a safe environment through experienced, caring teachers who truly get to know your child. St. John has achieved exemplary WELSSA and NCPSA accreditation and our teaching proudly includes a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) transformative STEM curriculum. Our SEVP-certified international school program has extended our reach in teaching Jesus to students from across the world.

Do you know a family who you would love to see attend St. John? Recommendations and referrals from our families are our best source of meeting new families who value Christian education at St. John like we do. Please consider sharing the names and contact information of any friends and family with St. John, so that we may reach out to them.

For more information, please visit our website ([stjohnslib.com/school](http://stjohnslib.com/school)), call our office at [847-362-4424](tel:847-362-4424), or email [recruitment@stjohnslib.com](mailto:recruitment@stjohnslib.com). We are eager to discuss with you how we can partner with you in your child's education!