



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE

The Second Sunday of Easter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

Sunday, April 3, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

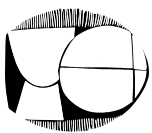
We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Final preparation to be the risen Christ's witnesses begins with sight. The apostles were blessed with visibly seeing the risen Lord. Overcoming their doubts by the power of the Spirit, they would boldly proclaim the new life to be found in the Living One. Blessed to see through eyes of faith, the vision of the First and the Last fills our hearts with this confidence: *"Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again."* (CW 406)

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY



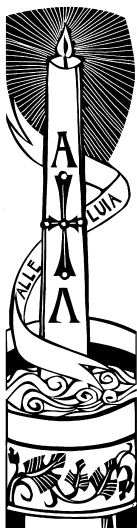
In Holy Communion, we share in the mystery of the bread and wine offered together with the body and blood of Christ. As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.

While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not taught first.

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members

of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

THE PASCHAL CANDLE



The Paschal Candle is a special candle used at every service during the Easter season and at baptisms and funerals year-round. The Paschal Candle—rededicated this morning in our Easter Vigil service—symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It emphasizes the presence of the resurrected Christ and the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6).

The name *Paschal* comes from the Greek, *pascha*. Before the time of Christ, this word was used for Passover; after Christ, Christians took to using the word when referring to the Festival of the Resurrection (The term *Easter* came into use in later centuries).

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the Paschal Candle traditionally stands near or in front of the altar as a symbol of resurrection. It is lighted for each service and is traditionally extinguished after the reading of the Gospel on Ascension. The Paschal Candle is of substantial size so its important symbolism speaks clearly. Even the stand in which it sits is of great size.

Even as the Advent candles bring wonderful meaning to the celebration of Advent, so the Paschal Candle is intended to add meaningful symbolism to our celebration of Easter, Baptisms, and Christian funerals.

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Celebrant	Pr. Seth Haakenson
	Campus Pastor
	Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School
	Waco, NE
Organist.....	Michelle Reinsch
Ushers.....	Tom Hansen & Brent Meyer
Greeters	Pam Riggins & Barb Stutz
Sound Technician	Logan Hansen

THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service of Word & Sacrament — Christian Worship, pg. 26



OPENING HYMN

This Joyful Eastertide | CW 160

INVOCATION

Please stand.

[M] The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

[C] And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

“So, then, no one comes into [the kingdom of God] but sinners...He admits no saints but puts all of them out. Whoever wants to be holy He expels from the church. But when sinners come in, they do not remain sinners. He puts His garment over them and says: If you have sinned, I forgive you and your sin and cover it up. It is true that sin is there; but the Lord in this kingdom will not see it but will cover, forgive, and not impute it. So, then, a living saint and member of Christ stands there.”

— Martin Luther

[M] 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. *1 John 1:8-9*

[M] God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Silence for meditation on God’s Word and for self-examination as you consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments:

Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy?

Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome?

Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds?

Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

[M] Holy and merciful Father,

[C] I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in

eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

[M] God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — *Kyrie*

[M] For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



[M] For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



[M] For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Kyrie is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression, "Lord, have mercy," is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian Church.



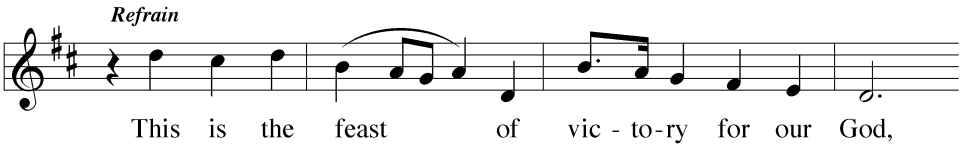
The **Dignus est Agnus**, Latin for "Worthy is the Lamb," is an exclusively Lutheran canticle of the liturgy. It is sung in place of the Gloria in Excelsis during the season of Easter and on the last Sunday of the Church year—Christ the King. It is most certainly an appropriate song to sing as the Church has always had at the center of its theology the Lamb of God who shed his blood upon the Cross to save a fallen race.

[M] Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



[M] The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise!

THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY — *Dignus est Agnus* CW 265



PRAYER OF THE DAY — *Collect*

[M] 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 your 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.



Be seated.

The Service of the Word



FIRST LESSON

Acts 5:12, 17-32

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and

The Collect (also called the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Most of these prayers have been in use in the Church for more than 1,500 years. By praying these prayers, we join with the great body of believers, the communion of saints, and with the generations yet to come. The congregation makes the Collect its own with its "Amen," a declaration that what has been said is true and affirming its trust in the Lord's promise; "Yes, yes, this is most certainly true."

This lesson begins a series from the Book of Acts that shows the apostles with markedly different character than the disciples in the upper room. These are not the same timid disciples who often questioned their rabbi out of lack of understanding or cowered behind locked doors out of fear. Now, even in the face of persecution, the apostles boldly proclaimed the Good News of new life. Such is the power and joy of the risen Christ in the lives of his followers.

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.” ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” ²⁹ 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.”

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



Far too often our prayers are simply laundry lists of earthly desires. This psalm reminds us of our greater need to thank and praise God and make spiritual blessings a priority. Those who have the Lord have the source of all good things, even everlasting life. We who are in Christ have been set at God's right hand, where we can never be removed.

Refrain



I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,



in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone



Refrain

Keep me | safe, O God,*
for in you I take | refuge.

I said to the LORD, "You | are my Lord;
apart from you I have | no good thing."

I have set the LORD always be- | fore me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be | shaken.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue re- | joices;*
my body also will | rest secure,

because you will not abandon me | to the grave,*
nor will you let your Holy One | see decay.

You have made known to me the | path of life;*
you will fill me with joy in your | presence.

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

This Sunday marks the beginning of a series of Lessons from Revelation. Each directs us to lift our eyes heavenward to behold with John the eternal glory secured by our risen Lord. These lessons conclude by encouraging us to keep gazing expectantly...for he will come again.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1:4-18

⁴ Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 20:31



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter twenty.

¹⁹ 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."

With repeated assurances of peace the gathered disciples are overjoyed to behold the risen Christ with their own eyes. Armed with the Ministry of the Keys, Jesus commissions them to proclaim their joy and open the kingdom of heaven to lost sinners. The visible and physical proofs demanded by Thomas anticipate future doubters of the Son of Man's divinity. In his grace we behold our risen Lord through Word and sacrament. How blessed by the Spirit are we: though we have not visibly seen, yet we see our Lord and God through eyes of faith.

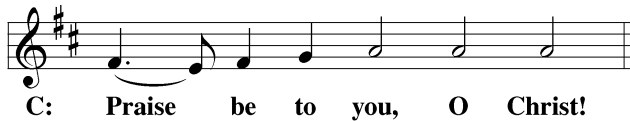
²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I 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.

[M] This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Sons and Daughters of the King | **CW 165**

SERMON

This hymn was written by Jean Tisserand, an eloquent preacher who lived in 15th century France. It recalls the beautiful Easter story, from the early morning hours, to the secure room, with Thomas and the disciples speaking with the risen Lord. With the hymn writer we sing, Alleluia!

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

C 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 fully 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 believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

OFFERING

*Public confession is
faith's response to
God's saving Word.
Christians composed
the **Nicene Creed** in
the 4th century to
defend the Bible's
teachings that both
Jesus Christ and the
Holy Spirit are true
God, equal to the
Father in one eternal,
undivided Trinity.*

*Moved by God's love
in Christ, by our
Offering we offer
him our first and best
gifts, purely out of
thanks to him.*

*If you are visiting
with us today, please
do not feel obligated
to give an offering.*

Through the **Prayer of the Church** we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

CW pg. 126

Please stand.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

HYMN

With High Delight Let Us Unite | **CW 168**

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

[M] Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the LORD with gladness.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

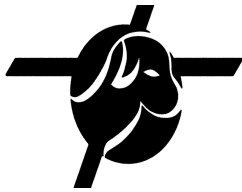
Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

This Is the Threefold Truth | CW 406



The **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them.” (cf. Numbers 6:27)



www.goodshepherdkearney.org

Announcements

NO BIBLE CLASS OR SUNDAY SCHOOL There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School after the service today. *Confirmation will resume this coming Wednesday, April 6. Bible Class and Sunday School will resume the next week, April 10.*

THANK YOU! We thank Pastor Seth Haakenson for serving us today with the Bread of Life. Pastor Haakenson serves as Campus Pastor at Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School in Waco, NE. He and his wife were blessed with a daughter two weeks ago, so we thank him for taking time away from his new little one to come serve us today.

PASTOR SEELOW OUT-OF-TOWN Pastor Seelow and his family will be on vacation through this Tuesday, April 5. If you are in need of pastoral service, please call Pastor Tom Schneider of Christ Lutheran in Grand Island, NE. His phone number is 308-382-1988 (church) or 269-429-9162 (cell).

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER A copy of the newest “A Congregation at Prayer” is available on the table in the entryway. This packet is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

LWMS SPRING RALLY The LWMS Nebraska Central Plains Spring Rally will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Cortland, NE on April 16. The theme is, “*My Cup Overflows*” and will have Pr. Daniel Johnston, who serves a new mission start in Blair, NE, as a guest speaker. Registration for the rally is from 9-10a.

This Week's Calendar

Tuesday, April 57p — Ladies' Guild

Wednesday, April 64p — Confirmation

Sunday, April 109:30a — Divine Service with Lord's Supper
10:45 — Sunday School
10:55 — *Romans 1-8* Bible Class

Ushers: Les Adelung & Mannie Reinsch
Greeter: Vivian Alexander

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Cleaning (4/3-4/9)*Church*—Hansen; *Fellowship*—Harp; *Ed. Bldg.*—Powers
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