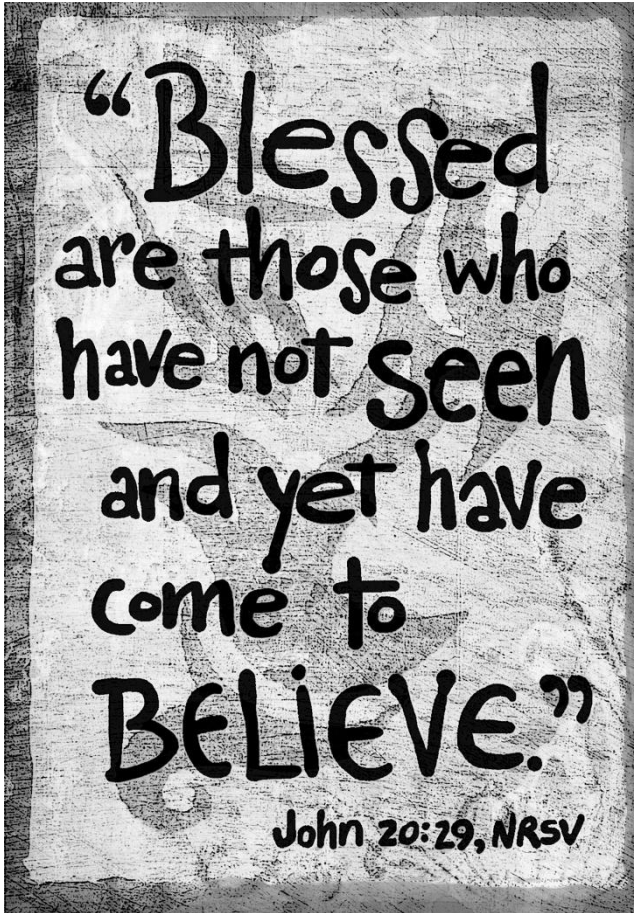


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 12, 2026

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**



*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**GREETING**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**C:** **Amen**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P:** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

**P:** Merciful God,  
We thank you for the waters of creation  
that nourish us.

**P:** Blessed are you.

**C:** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P:** Jesus Christ,  
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.  
Lead us to drink of those waters that gush up to eternal life.

**P:** Blessed are you.

**C:** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P:** Holy Spirit,  
As once you descended upon our Christ and us at Holy Baptism,  
descend upon us once again and fill us with the breath of peace.

**P:** Blessed are you.

**C:** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P:** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN** *Thine is the Glory*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G:** And also with you.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



**B** Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo- ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY****P**: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**: **Amen***Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

**A**: A Reading from Acts:

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: <sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the

resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
 ‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
 nor did his flesh experience corruption.’  
 32 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

**A**: The word of the Lord.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

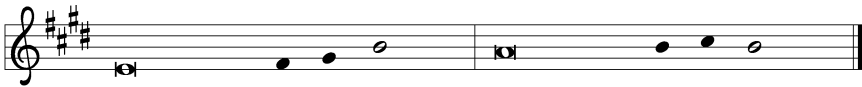
**PSALM: Psalm 16**

*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*



In your pres-ence there is full-ness of joy.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;  
 I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”
- 2 **All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,  
 upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**
- 3 But those who run after | other gods  
 shall have their troubles | multiplied.
- 4 **I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,  
 never take their names up- | on my lips. R**
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;  
 it is you who up- | hold my lot.
- 6 **My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;  
 indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**
- 7 I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;  
 my heart teaches me night | after night.
- 8 **I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;  
 because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. R**
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
 my body also shall | rest in hope.
- 10 **For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
 nor let your holy one | see the pit.**
- 11 You will show me the | path of life;  
 in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are  
 pleasures for- | evermore. **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

**A:** A Reading from First Peter:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

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

**Cantor:** Blessed are those who have not seen\* and yet have come to believe.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias.

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After

he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C**: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

**SERMON** ..... **Pastor McNassor**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*** ..... **LBW 132**



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pris-on,  
3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,  
4 For to-day a-mong the twelve Christ ap-peared, be-stow-ing  
5 Al-le-lu-ia! Now we cry to our King im-mor-tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
 his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad - den faith - ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion  
 Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.  
 God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*After each petition:*

**P:** Merciful God,

**C:** receive our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C:** Amen

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

*Sit*

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.*

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

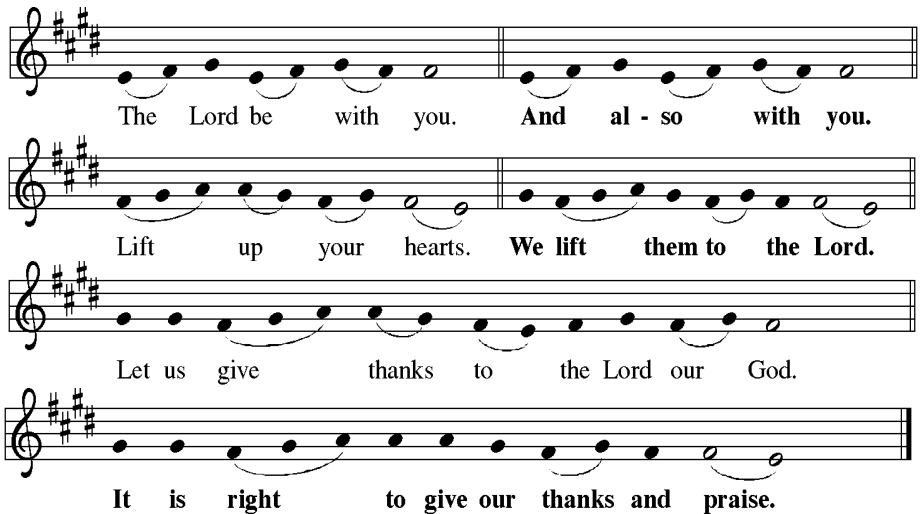
*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER****A**: Let us pray.**C**: Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
 You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
 when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
 Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
 that goodness and mercy may follow us  
 and bless the world you love.

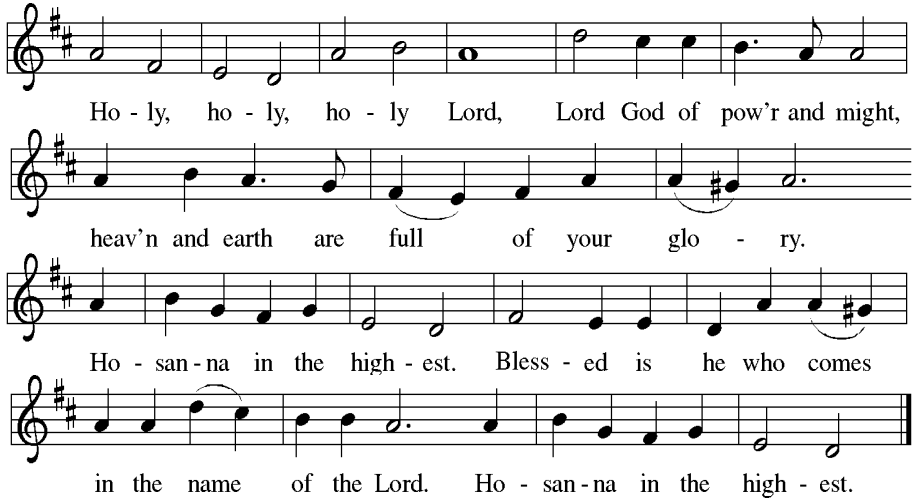
In the name of Jesus,  
 Amen

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
 In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**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**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

**COMMUNION**

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

*The communicant may say: Amen*

**COMMUNION HYMN**    *Blessing and Honor*

1 Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and  
 2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the  
 3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -  
 4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the

rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our  
 earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,  
 scend-ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and  
 robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the

bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the  
 for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his  
 glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we  
 Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to

throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!  
 pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.  
 raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.  
 reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.  
 Music: AMERICAN HYMN, Matthias Keller, 1813–1875

*Stand*

**P**: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C**: Amen

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A**: Let us pray.

Holy One,  
 through this meal you have made your home among us  
 and are making all things new.  
 Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
 to love our enemies,  
 and to bring your healing to the nations.  
 In the name of Jesus,

**C**: Amen

### ***SENDING***

### **BLESSING**

**P**: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
 and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
 † bless you now and forever.

**C**: Amen

**SENDING HYMN**

**Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!..... LBW 147**



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?  
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;  
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.  
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,  
 He who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,  
 joined to him, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;  
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.  
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.  
 with the Lord, at his right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.  
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.  
 glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

**DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**POSTLUDE**

### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Anita Bair; **Comm. Asst.:** Mandy Feinberg; **Acolyte:** Malory Klemick; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt  
**Greeters/Presenters:** Dave and Rita Strickler  
**Cantor:** Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Smith by Vonnie Kaiser and family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in memory of Marian E. Blackburn by her family.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name and information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**This morning we welcome Pastor John McNassor**, retired Pastor who has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits "Sew-A-Sack" ~ PART TWO!**  
**Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, April 14-15-16, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.-**  
**???**

**Tickets will be on sale** in the narthex on April 12-19-26 for the **Women's Banquet** (formerly the "Mother's Day Dinner") to be held on **Tuesday, May 5**, at 6:00 p.m. in Shaheen Hall. We will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with red-white-blue table decorations. We invite those attending to come in one or more of our patriotic colors to add a more festive touch. Ticket prices are as follows: \$13.00 (Adults); \$6.00 (children age 6-12) and no fee for children age 5 and under.

**Tickets are available TODAY in the narthex--\$6.50 per person**—for the tour of the THOMAS T. TABER MUSEUM, 858 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport, on SUNDAY, APRIL 26 (12:15-2:15 p.m.). A sandwich/salad lunch that day will be provided by members of WELCA immediately following the Service and then we will car-pool to the Museum to see art-works, toy trains, West Branch history, Little League memorabilia...and even Model T cars! **It will be great!**

**Trivia Night is Saturday, April 18 (6:00 p.m.)** Registration fees are \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple and all monies go to the beneficiary- Messiah Pre-School's Scholarship Fund. Please bring food to share; pizza and beverages will be provided. George Jansson is our Quiz-master.

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

## Be Curious

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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