



Union Lutheran Church

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2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

+++++

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *O Sons and Daughters* (Smith)

GATHERING

* Invocation

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

* Confession and Forgiveness

P Christ is risen!

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

P Blessed are those who call on the strong name of the risen Lord! As we gather in the victorious name of Christ, let us open our hearts to him and confess the ways in which we have failed to follow his will, and the ways in which we simply neglected our calling as his disciples.

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P Lord of heaven and earth, of the living and of the dead,

C **We come before you confessing our sins, asking for your gracious mercy. By our human nature we are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. By your lovingkindness, we implore you to grant us forgiveness and restore us to your salvation, that we might live holy lives here and now, and be with you in the final resurrection. Amen.**

P Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God declares to all who believe and confess their sins, that we are forgiven and restored to a right relationship through Jesus Christ. We have been redeemed and renewed by Christ, our Passover Lamb. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✝ and of the Holy Spirit, let us walk in newness of life, following our Lord Jesus in holy obedience.

C Amen.

* Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

WOV# 674

674

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es; life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent: death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, gold - en Je -

sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb,
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; break - ing our bread,
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; heav - en to earth,
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing:
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, riv - er of life,

heav - en for - ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 giv - ing us glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 Christ to the peo - ple, gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 "O grave, be o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 saints and arch - an - gels, sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:

Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

* Greeting

P Christ is Risen!

C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who went to the cross for our sake; the love of the Father who put an end to the power of death through the resurrection of Christ; and the promised Holy Spirit who gathers us together, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

* Kyrie

LBW p. 57

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen**

Hymn of Praise (*This is the Feast*)

LBW p. 60-61

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

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

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

II **Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

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

I **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.**

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

II **For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

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

* Salutation

LBW p. 62

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

* Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray, Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

New Testament Lesson: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 148 *read responsively*

L ¹Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

C ²**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

L ³Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

C ⁴**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

L ⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created.

C ⁶**And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

L ⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

C ⁸**fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

L ⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C ¹⁰**Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**

L ¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C ¹²**Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**

L ¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

C ¹⁴**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!**

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 1:1-2:2

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — ³that which we have seen and heard

we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L Here ends the reading.

Children's Message

* Gospel Acclamation (*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*)

LBW p. 62

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 20th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

* Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

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 any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, 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 The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

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
greet 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!

* Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

**C 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**

* *Or, He descended to the dead.*

** *Or, the holy Christian Church,*

* Prayers of the Church

LBW p. 65

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

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

C Amen

* Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 66

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Social Ministry Fund. During the month of April, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Food the Poor. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.

Anthem: An Easter Song (Pooler)

Chancel Choir

MEAL

* Offering (*Let the vineyard be fruitful, Lord...*)

LBW p. 66

C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us
a foretaste of the feast to come.

* Offering Prayer

P Let us pray. Generous God, you have given us treasures too numerable to count. Grant us faith to be generous with all that you have first given us: our time, our resources, and our possessions. May we boldly trust that your providence, presence, and care are a never-ending reality in our lives.

C Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 68

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.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . (*Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:*)

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Sanctus (*Holy, holy, holy*)

LBW p. 69

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.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P 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.

C **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**

C **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, grant us peace.**

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Communion Music: *Meditation* (Lasky)

* Blessing

LBW p. 72

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

C **Amen**

* Post-Communion Canticle (*Thank the Lord and sing his praise;*)

LBW p. 72-73

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 Prayer

P Gracious God, you have fed us at this holy meal with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. We praise you for the glorious resurrection of Christ which is a sign of your great love for your people. You have forgiven us through this sacrament and restored us to new and everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

* Benediction

P Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Go now in the name of God the Father, the Son, **+**and the Holy Spirit. (1 John 5:7)

C **Amen.**

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!

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He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled is God, my

Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen. My Je - sus rose tri -

um - phant - ly, And Sa - tan's ar - rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's

fierc - est weap - on. Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing

glo - rious, Life is giv - ing. He was dead, but now is liv - ing!

* Blessing & Dismissal

L Union Lutheran Church you have been equipped and empowered by Word and Sacrament.
C **We will faithfully love God and love our neighbor.**

L Go now in peace. Christ is Risen!
C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Postlude: *My Redeemer* (Ritter)

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OUR MISSION: Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded~
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR 2024 VISION: “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

OUR 2024 ACTION PLAN: “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...”
(Matthew 25:35-40)



Those Serving in April

Guest Organist: Nancy Sloop

We welcome Nancy Sloop to worship today as our Guest Organist!

Acolytes: Morgan Deaton and Dusty Morgan

Altar Guild: Sonya Mulkey and Janet Overcash

Communion Assistants: Janice Goodman, Vicki Hunter and Sonya Mulkey

Lay Readers: Morgan Deaton and Vicki Hunter

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Adam Thomspson and Ron Vellines

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Painter and Ron Vellines

Union News

Sunday, April 7

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Thomas Believes Again ~ John 20:24-31; Jude 1:17-25

Jesus said, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:27)

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith of the Persistent ~ John 4:4-18; Luke 5:17-26

9:35 a.m. New Members Class in the Library

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 148:1-14; 1 John 1:1-2; John 20:19-31

Sermon: *One Heart, One Soul*

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

4:00 p.m. Union & Salem Youth

*The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in thanks for our many blessings!*

This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, April 9

2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle at ULC

Wednesday, April 10

4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study Online

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

No Wednesday Choirs rehearsals this week.

Thursday, April 11

10:00 a.m. Good Timers in the large fellowship hall

Program: Y Singers

Lunch: Lakeview Restaurant

Sunday, April 14

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Choosing a New Apostle ~ Acts 1:12-26; 1 Peter 5:1-4

They prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside..." (Acts 1:24-25)

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith of a Centurion ~ Zecharia 8:18-23; Luke 7:1-10

9:35 a.m. New Members Class in the Library

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
Acts 3:11-21; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-49

2:00 p.m. Mission Outreach Umbrella
(*Lay Ministers, Card Care Team, Union Women, and Social Ministry Committee*)

Council Point Persons:
Ali Davis and Vicki Hunter

Robyn Arey, Chair
Steve Hutchens, Vice Chair
Judy Boyd, Secretary

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

4:00 p.m. Little Lutherans (5th grade and younger)

Altar Flowers are open for reservations on April 14.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Ruth Monroe, Jean Ray & Jay Rusher (Autumn Care); Arnold Cauble (The Meadows)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Glenn Eagle, Rachel Earnhardt, Joan Kerns, Teresa Kesler, James Kluttz, Glenn Lowder, Frances Norris, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Effie Vellines, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Brenda Cauble, Phil Cauble, Glenn Honeycutt, Jr., Steve Hutchens, Jean Kluttz, John Knight, Wade Leazer, Sharon Moore, Kay Morgan, Marvin Nunn, Janet Overcash, Doris Page, Patsy Sigmon, Wayne and Pam Vellines & Rev. Bob Young (son of the congregation)

Continual Prayer – Jim Baker (Genevieve Baker's uncle), Shonna Lanning Black (Jack and Deena Lanning's daughter), Bill Broadway, Sharon Peeler Bullock (Sylvia Peeler's daughter), Michael Curlee (Scott Curlee's brother), Billy Hutchens (Steve Hutchens' brother), Pat Kluttz, Dr. Sean Malone (Pam Vellines' doctor), Fay Miller (friend of Pat Kluttz); Della Morgan (Pam Vellines' mother), Ben Smith (Cathy Painter's brother-in-law), Glen Wall (Frank & Dawn Merrell's friend), Pat Wiles (Genevieve Baker's friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti) & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmands: Janaya Anderson, Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Landon Kesler, Eireanna Miller, Moses Miller, and Noah Trexler

Holy Week Services Attendance

March 24	118	Palm Sunday
March 28	9	Maundy Thursday 10:30 a.m.
March 28	65	Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m.
March 29	15	Good Friday 10:30 a.m.
March 29	65	Good Friday 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Attendance

March 31	75	Easter Sunrise 7:30 a.m.
March 31		Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School
March 31	152	Easter Service 10:30 a.m.

Section 3: Service of the Sacrament ~ Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis: Latin for “now let your servant depart.”)

At the close of Holy Communion, the pastor closes and covers the sacred vessels with a veil. And the congregation stands to sing the **Nunc Dimittis**. The use of Simeon’s song as a **Post-Communion Canticle** is a unique element of Lutheran liturgy. Like Simeon, we encounter Christ in flesh and blood.



Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Luke 2:29-32

(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 26)