

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021 11:00 AM

REV. MATTHEW CLARK  
Pastor

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Parish Librarian



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SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Word of Life Lutheran School

ASCENSION LOCATION

5:00 pm Saturdays & 8:15 am Sundays (Traditional Music)  
11:00 am Sundays (Contemporary Music)  
9:45 am Sundays (Sunday School and Bible Class)

CFNA PEACE CENTER LOCATION

10:00 am 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (Nepali Fellowship)

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 11, 2021 11:00 AM

### AS WE GATHER

We consider today the witness of God's faithful servants Simeon and Anna. As they beheld Jesus in the temple, they were overcome with joy and proclaimed the good news of God's redemption and salvation. Jesus came into our world as light and peace. As you listen and sing of God's salvation this day, may you be filled with the joy and peace that filled Simeon and Anna.

### PRELUDE

*Organ*

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME

### OPENING SONG: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

*Arr. Crowder/Milligan/Erfreuen*

All creatures of our God and King. Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him alleluia.

Thou burning sun with golden beam. Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Thou rushing wind that art so strong. Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along  
O praise Him alleluia.

Thou rising moon in praise rejoice. Ye lights of evening find a voice  
O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let all things their Creator bless. And worship Him in humbleness  
O praise Him alleluia.

Praise praise the Father praise the Son. And praise the Spirit three in One  
O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Praise praise the Father praise the Son. And praise the Spirit three in One  
O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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*(Please Stand)*

### INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13*

- P** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
**C** **For his steadfast love endures forever.**

- P** Give thanks to the God of gods,  
**C** **For his steadfast love endures forever.**

- P** To him who alone does great wonders,  
**C** **For his steadfast love endures forever.**

- P** Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
**C** **For his steadfast love endures forever. Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*[John 20:19–23]*

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

- C** **Amen.**

(or)

- A** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- C** **Amen**

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.

- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

**FIRST READING**

*Acts 4:32–35*

<sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There 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 <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**

*1 John 1:1—2:2*

<sup>1</sup>That 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— <sup>2</sup>the 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— <sup>3</sup>that 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. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But 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. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My 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. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 20:19–31*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And 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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 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.”

<sup>26</sup>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.” <sup>27</sup>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.” <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 believed.”

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

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*(Please Be Seated)*

## SONG OF THE DAY: GLORIOUS DAY

Chapman

One day when heaven was filled with His praises, One day when sin was as black as could be,  
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin, Dwelt among men my example is He.  
The Word became flesh and the light shined among us. His glory revealed.

### CHORUS:

Living, He loved me, dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away.  
Rising, He justified freely forever.  
One day He's coming, O glorious day, O glorious day.

One day they led Him up Calv'ry's mountain. One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.  
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected, Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He.  
The hand that healed nations stretched out on a tree . . . .And took the nails from me. CHORUS

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer, One day the stone rolled away from the door.  
Then He arose over death He had conquered. Now is ascended my Lord evermore.  
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him from rising again CHORUS

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,  
One day the skies with His glories will shine.  
Wonderful day my beloved one bringing. My Savior Jesus is mine. CHORUS

Glorious Day. O Glorious Day.

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## SERMON

*(Please Stand)*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord,  
**C** **Through Jesus, our risen Savior.**
- P** For the Church in her works of mercy, that she would be united in the common life and love of our Savior and so share that life and love with those in need, through Jesus,  
**C** **Our risen Savior.**
- P** For Christian families, that the peace of the risen Christ and the forgiveness of sins would be freely shared in the home and so bind families together in love, through Jesus,  
**C** **Our risen Savior.**
- P** For the authorities God has placed over us in federal, state and local governments, that He would give them the desire to serve with integrity and honor and to work for the benefit of all, through Jesus,  
**C** **Our risen Savior.**
- P** For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, *[especially \_\_\_\_\_,]* through Jesus,  
**C** **Our risen Savior.**

**P** For Ascension's capital campaign, that the Lord would bless us with generous hearts so that improvements to our facilities might enable us to better share Christ's love today and tomorrow, through Jesus,

**C** **Our risen Savior.**

**P** For all who eat and drink the body and blood of Christ, the Word of life, that forgiven of their sins, they may also have fellowship with God and one another, through Jesus,

**C** **Our risen Savior.**

**P** Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word, until at last we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

**OFFERTORY: GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART**

LSB 806

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the  
Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_ Je - sus  
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give  
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_  
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am  
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of  
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the  
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am  
rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks. \_\_\_\_\_

## OFFERING

Due to COVID-19 we will not be passing an offering plate. Please place gifts and offerings in the wooden box in the narthex. You can also give online as a one-time gift or reoccurring donation. Simply click "Online Giving" at [www.ascensionstl.com](http://www.ascensionstl.com).

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.

How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?

1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them
2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament
3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life

*(Please Stand)*

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

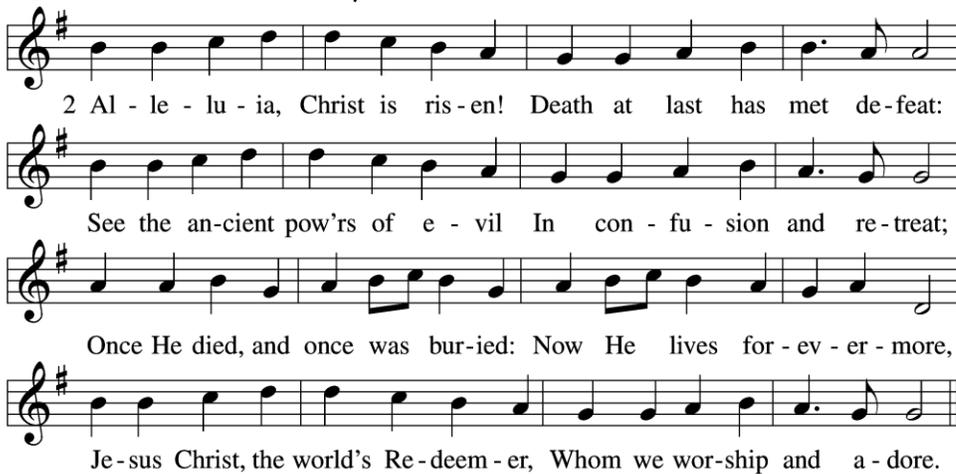
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## HYMN VERSE: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN

LSB 477 st. 2



2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
See the an - cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;  
Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,  
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.

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## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

*(Please be Seated)*

‡ DISTRIBUTION SONGS ‡

**SONG: GRACE LIKE RAIN**

*Agnew/Collins/Excell/Newton*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see so clearly.

CHORUS: Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.  
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. CHORUS

Interlude

When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing Your praise than when we first begun. CHORUS X 2

. . . They're washed away.

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**SONG: COME ALIVE "DRY BONES"**

*Daigle*

Through the eyes of men it seems there's so much we have lost  
As we look down the road where all the prodigals have walked  
One by one the enemy has whispered lies and led them off as slaves

But we know that You are God, Yours is the victory  
We know there is more to come that we may not yet see  
So with the faith You've given us, we step into the valley unafraid, yeah

CHORUS: As we call out to dry bones, "Come alive, come alive"  
We call out to dead hearts, "Come alive, come alive"  
Up out of the ashes, let us see an army rise  
We call out to dry bones, "Come alive"

God of endless mercy, God of unrelenting love  
Rescue every daughter, bring us back the wayward sons  
And by Your spirit breathe upon them  
Show the world that You alone can save  
You alone can save CHORUS

So breathe, oh breath of God, now breathe, oh breath of God.  
Breathe, oh breath of God, now breathe. REPEAT

Breathe, oh breath of God, now breathe, Oh, breathe, oh breath of God,  
now breathe, oh breath of God. Breathe, oh breath of God, now breathe. CHORUS

We call out to dry bones, come alive.

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*(Please Stand)*

## HYMN VERSE: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN

LSB 477 st. 3

△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text and tune: Public domain

## BENEDICAMUS

- A** We are people loved by Christ;
- C** **Sharing Christ's love.**

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

## BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG: AWESOME IS THE LORD MOST HIGH

Pierce/Tomlin/Reeves/Abel

Great are You Lord mighty in strength, You are faithful, and You will ever be.  
We will praise You all of our days, It's for Your glory we offer ev'rything.

Raise your hands all you nations, shout to God all creation, How awesome is the Lord most high.

Where You send us, God, we will go. You're the answer we want the world to know.  
We will trust You when You call our name. Where You lead us we'll follow all the way.

Raise your hands all you nations, shout to God all creation, How awesome, is the Lord most high.  
We will praise You together, for now and forever. How awesome is the Lord most high.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, how awesome is the Lord most high.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, how awesome is the Lord most high.

Raise your hands all you nations, shout to God all creation, How awesome, is the Lord most high.  
We will praise You together, for now and forever. How awesome is the Lord most high. X2

Hallelujah . . . . . Hallelujah. . . . .Hallelujah.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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