

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter



Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

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, we will hear from much of Peter's letter to the earliest Christians. Even as they proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in our own time in baptism.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.



Prelude

Baptism Hymn

ELW hymn 445

"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

Holy Baptism

ELW page 227

By water and God's promises, today we celebrate the baptism of Henry and Carson Urhammer. Bringing them to baptism are their parents, Garrett and Jenna Urhammer. We welcome them into the body of Christ and the mission we share!

Gathering Song

"Because He Lives"



1. God sent His Son— They called Him Je - sus;
2. How sweet to hold our new - born ba - by,
3. And then one day I'll cross that riv - er;



He came to love, heal and for - give. He bled and died
and feel the pride and joy he gives; But great - er still
I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain. And then, as death



to buy my par - don; An emp - ty grave is there to
the calm as - sur - ance: This child can face un - cer - tain
gives way to vic - t'ry, I'll see the lights of glo - ry



prove my Sav - ior lives. Be - cause He lives I can face to -
days be - cause Christ lives.
and I'll know He reigns.



- mor - row; Be - cause He lives, all fear is gone. Be - cause I



know He holds the fu - ture, and life is worth the liv - ing



just be - cause He lives.



Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 232

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection, even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

"I'm a Believer"

***And I saw His face, now I'm a believer.
Not a trace of doubt in my mind.
I will serve and love. He has the glory,
Go tell the story, to humankind.***

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 115

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.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to John.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW hymn 635

"We Walk by Faith"

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:
Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

At the conclusion:

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.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.



Announcements

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

"Spirit in the Sky"

Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.



Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks . . .

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

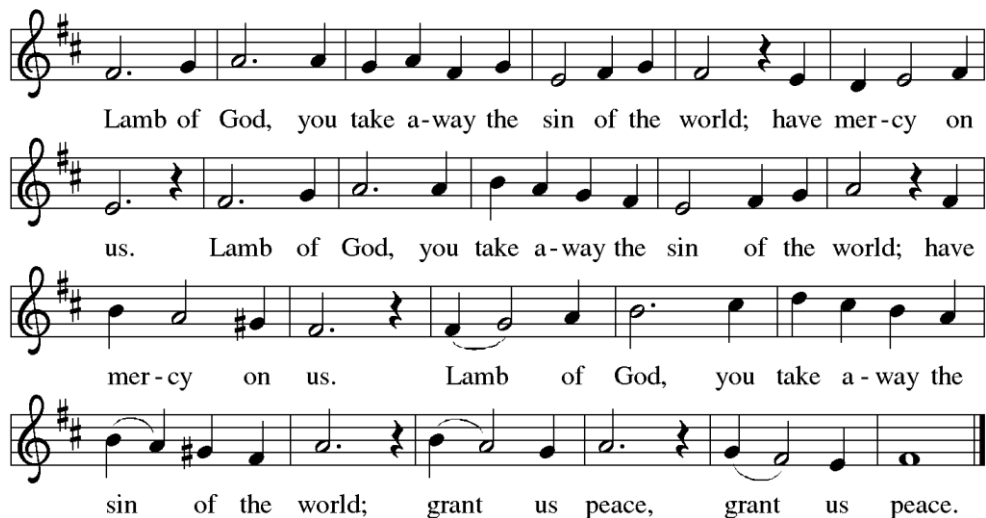
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**





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.



Communion

We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond:*

Amen.

Communion Song

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light my strength my song.
This Cornerstone this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love what depths of peace.
When fears are stilled when strivings cease.
My Comforter my All in All.
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh.
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness.
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died.
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay.
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day.
Up from the grave He rose again,
And as He stands in victory.
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine.
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life no fear in death.
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell no scheme of man.
Can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home.
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Prayer After Communion

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Charge and Blessing

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

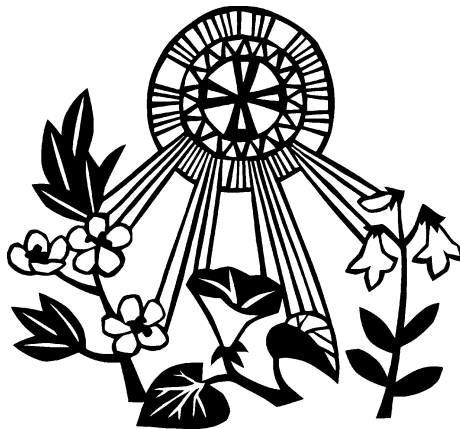
Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.



Sending Song

"I Am the Resurrection"

**I am the resurrection and the life;
He who believes in me will never die.
I am the resurrection and the life;
He who believes in me will live a new life.**

**I have come to bring the truth;
I have come to bring you life;
If you believe, then you shall live.**

**In my word we all will come to know.
It is love which makes the Spirit grow.
If you believe, then you shall live.**

**Keep in mind the things that I have said.
Remember me in the breaking of the bread.
If you believe, then you shall live.**

Dismissal

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

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DAILY PRAYER
For Those Who Reject the Christian Faith

JESUS

Gracious God, we ask mercy on all those who are hostile or reject the Christian faith. Remind us that soft answers turn away wrath, and may our witness be one that demonstrates the graciousness of the love you have for all humanity. Forgive us for the times when we have feared those who practice a faith other than our own. May we continue to advocate for religious liberty for all people. Finally, turn our hearts to those who have once walked the Way of Jesus, but who now find themselves lacking faith. We pray especially for those who have been wounded by the church and its leaders and peoples. Engage us in acts of healing and reconciliation, that all those who once worshipped you may return to relationship with you and your church. Amen.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

Sharing Peace



Each Sunday Christians exchange with one another the peace of the risen Christ. In some assemblies, the Peace has become a kind of seventh-inning stretch during which everyone chats with everyone else about the week's news. However, the true intention of this greeting is that we are enacting John 20, receiving from one another the peace that Christ gave to the disciples. We fill the room with the life of the Holy Spirit, awakening in one another the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection.

LIFE ON EARTH

Honoring the Earth



The church has taught that we can touch the wounds of Christ in our needy neighbor. Newly in our time we are asking whether those wounds are also found in the terrain, the plants, and the animals of God's creation. When we honor the earth God made, we honor the body of the Son of God.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552;

Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church

Sunday, April 19, 2026

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Strongly Sung Alleluias

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.