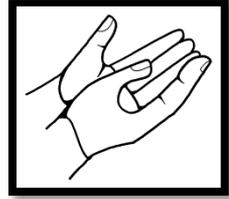


## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., APRIL 11, 2021

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*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

**Welcome to guests and visitors!** *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by **C** and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

### About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

"It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X). "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI). "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50).

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### EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*A welcome and introduction to the day are made.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

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Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**☩ We thank you, O God.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**☩ We bless you, O God.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**☩ We praise you, O God.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

### **ENTRANCE PSALM (139)**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**☩ <sup>2</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

<sup>3</sup>Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**☩ <sup>4</sup>You press upon me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.**

<sup>5</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**☩ <sup>6</sup>Where can I go then from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?**

<sup>7</sup>If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**☩ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### 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.**

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☩ Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☩ Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God,

**☩ for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**☩ And also with you.**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection.  
By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the  
resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior

and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*A musical offering is made by the 180 Group (video).*

#### **FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave 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 owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALMODY: Psalm 133**

<sup>1</sup>Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!

**C <sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,**

<sup>3</sup>upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**C <sup>4</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

<sup>5</sup>For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life forevermore.

**C Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when brethren live together in unity!**

#### **SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2**

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us;

and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.  
<sup>4</sup>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 there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself 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 that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</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>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

**☪ Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Go quickly and tell his disciples,

**☪ 'He has been raised from the dead,  
and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee;**

there you will see him.'

**☪ This is my message for you.**

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen

**☪ and yet have come to believe. Alleluia.**

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

The holy gospel according to John.

**☪ Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked 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, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

**☪ Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

*Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.*

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**☪ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**☪ And also with you.**

*The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.*

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☪ 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.*

**☞ Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**☞ Amen.**

## OFFERING PRESENTATION

*Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.*

## OFFERTORY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**☞ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

An angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone.

**☞ The angel said to the women, Do not be afraid.**

I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

**☞ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

**☞ Alleluia, alleluia.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☞ Amen.**

*The table is set.*

## DIALOGUE

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.**

### PREFACE

*The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:*

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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 . . .

Grace our table with your presence.

**☞ Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. . . .

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**☞ Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places . . .

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**☞ Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**☞ 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

The risen Christ invites us to receive from this table.

Eat and be satisfied.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**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.

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.*

### MUSICAL OFFERING

#### BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (118)

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

**C** Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

**C** <sup>2</sup>Let Israel now proclaim, "His mercy endures forever."

<sup>5</sup>I called to the Lord in my distress;  
the Lord answered by setting me free.

**C** <sup>8</sup>It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh.

<sup>10</sup>All the ungodly encompass me;  
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

**C** <sup>11</sup>They hem me in, they hem me in on every side;  
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

<sup>13</sup>I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the Lord came to my help.

**☞ <sup>14</sup>The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.**

<sup>15</sup>There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:

**☞ <sup>16</sup>“The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!  
The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!”**

<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

**☞ <sup>21</sup>I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The same stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**☞ <sup>23</sup>This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**☞ <sup>25</sup>Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us now success.**

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

**☞ <sup>28</sup>“You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”**

<sup>29</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

**☞ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☞ Amen.**

### BLESSING

*Response after the blessing:*

**☞ Amen.**

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.*

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Go in peace. Share the good news.

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

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### From Fear to Freedom

The disciples had good reason to be afraid. Their teacher, perceived as a threat to social, political, and religious order, had just been crucified; now with rumors swirling about his mysterious resurrection, it wasn't clear if Jesus' followers would face the same dire fate on a cross. Today, most of us, fortunately, can live without fear regarding when and where we are able to worship. At the same time, when we take a moment to look at the world around us, it doesn't take long to notice what a strong influence fear has on our lives.

Fear not of things like tornadoes or spiders or bats, but rather fear of things that keep our hearts closed off from others and God and that keep our truest selves locked up inside. As it was for the disciples in today's reading, our unaddressed fears can get in the way of our recognizing what Jesus is doing in our midst. They turn us in toward ourselves rather than outward toward those who could be blessed by our gifts and who need our care and love. They keep us from growing in our relationship with God and as the people God has created us to be.

Although it can be scary to acknowledge our fear of being inadequate or of losing control or of being alone, or whatever our deepest fear may be, when we do, that's when something powerful can happen. A sense of peace and joy is never far away. Not only are we released from our fear, but giving voice to our fears can set others free from theirs as well.

When Jesus appeared to those first disciples locked together behind closed doors, he came offering peace, and he breathed on them the Holy Spirit. In that moment their lives were changed—forever, and for good. The same is true for us when we dare to surrender our fears to God and embrace God's future for us with courage.