

April 12, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

## Whose Resurrection Is It?

It is not just Jesus who gets his life back on Easter. On Easter evening, the frightened, grief-stricken, locked away disciples get Jesus back, and through his presence and his words to them, they get their own lives back as well. "Peace be with you," he says.

Thomas misses all this. The others say to him, "We have seen the Lord." Yet Thomas can only visualize something else: all those puncture wounds.

The horrible has a way of pushing everything else out of our consciousness. When we are going through something dreadful, it is nearly always the only thing we can think about. It is all we can picture.

Thomas knows what happened to Jesus on Good Friday. It is easy to imagine that when Thomas closes his eyes, he sees Jesus as he last saw him. Thomas sees the cross, the nails, the body writhing there for hours and then horribly still. Thomas sees this, knows it, believes it in his bones. Whether he wants to believe something else is beside the point. He knows what he saw.

Yet, in spite of what Thomas has seen and regardless of what Thomas believes, Jesus is alive. He is alive, which means he is able to get to Thomas--and to us--no matter what horrors of the past rise up behind our eyelids. Just as Jesus found a way through those locked doors on Easter evening, so one week later, he finds a way to pry open the grip that Good Friday has on his friend, Thomas.

What's more, when Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe," he is promising that Thomas is not the last to get his life back as a result of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is still alive, and still finding ways to welcome his own into a future that our past had given us no reason to expect.

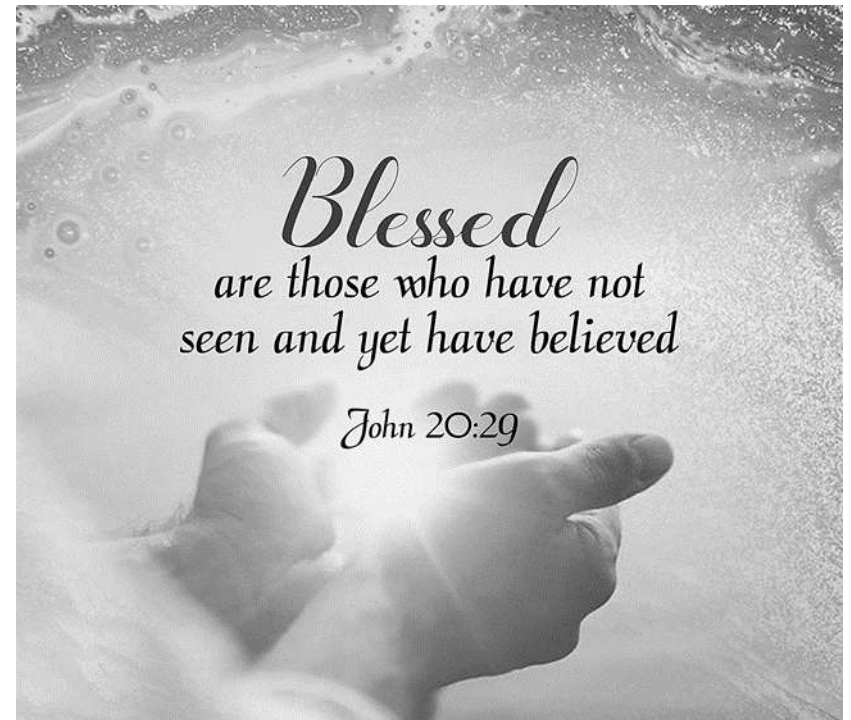
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician  
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Director of Music  
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director  
Jessica Miller, Office Manager



**Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community**

**April 12, 2026 - 10:30 am**

**April 12, 2026**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

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Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| 8:00 am  | Early Worship       |
| 9:15 am  | JAM Sunday School   |
| 9:15 am  | Adult Sunday School |
| 10:30 am | Late Worship        |
| 2:00 pm  | Chapel Communion    |

*(2nd Sunday of the month)*

**LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP:** We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

**SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA:** Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM** JAM Sunday School (church basement) and Adult Sunday School (lounge) meet each Sunday at 9:15 am. First year catechism will start soon! If you have a child in 6-7th grade interested please let Pastor Rayl know.

**NURSERY** is in the church basement and is now available during 2nd Service each week; you are welcome to sit with your child as well. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

**RESTROOMS** are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

**FLOWERS:** If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

**MEMORIALS:** If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Sherrie Haar  
Bob Haar

**READER**

Bob Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Amy Nelson

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to the table.

**C: Feast on God's goodness and mercy.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Communion** *(distribution will be continuous)*

*All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### **Blessing**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, (+) bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" No. 373

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

## ***ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am***

Prelude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

**Opening Hymn** "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" No. 389

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of (+) Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

*The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, "Peace be with you." We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:*

*"Lord I Lift Your Name on High" No. 857*

***"Lord I lift your name on high;  
Lord I love to sing your praises,  
I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us.***

***You came from heaven to earth to show the way.  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high."***

### **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.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

#### **Introduction**

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.

#### **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.*

Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

P: 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

#### **The Lord's Prayer** *(prayed by all)*

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.

## Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
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.

## Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: **your mercy is great.**

## The Offering

### Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

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 good to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy

<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.'

<sup>32</sup> "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 16

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> **I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you."**

<sup>3</sup> As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones  
in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.**

<sup>7</sup> I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> **I keep the Lord always before me;**

**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.

<sup>10</sup>**For you do not give me up Sheol,  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**SECOND READING: 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.*

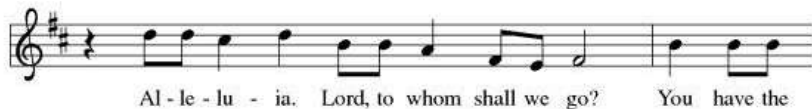
<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 20.

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

**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.*

<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.

**Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

Pastor Rayl

**Sermon Hymn**

*"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"*

No. 380

*(Please stand)*