

Quasimodo Geniti

The Second Sunday of Easter

Who is it who overcomes the world except the one who believes that

Jesus is the Son of God

1 John 5:5

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
gordongrace.org & facebook.com/gracelutherangordon

Rev. Travis Sherman
office@gordongrace.org
Bible Classes: 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.



Date: April 11th, 2021
Office: 308-282-0584
Home: 308-282-0254
Cell: 970-381-1670

WELCOME! We welcome our guests and visitors this morning and pray that your worship with us will be meaningful, blessed, and especially Christ-centered. We hope that you will worship with us again soon! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to consider making Grace Lutheran your church home.

IN THE INTEREST of good pastoral care, Grace Lutheran Church practices close communion. We believe, teach and confess that the one Holy Apostolic Christian Church throughout history and Holy Scripture teach that those who commune together should be one in faith and doctrine. For this reason, we reserve Holy Communion for those who are confirmed members of Grace Lutheran Church, and for confirmed members in good standing of sister LC-MS congregations. We respectfully ask those who are members of other church bodies to commune at the altar of their church, in accordance with their public confessions and under the care of their pastor.

THOSE who serve us:

Elder.....	
Altar.....	Piano/Organ...
Flowers	Courtesy.....
Greeters.....	
Ushers	
Church Cleaner	Lisa Johnson
Church Secretary.....	Leah Sherman
Little Lambs Preschool Teacher	Deb Evans

REMEMBER in your prayers: Jan Flueckinger, DeOnna Anderson, Bob Mills, Jim Kamerzell, Edna Schaer, Kristy Winter, Wynn Coon, Bonnie and Leonard Harris, Korbin Sommerville, Karen Prussia, Sharon Hardin, Marilyn Truax, Nancy Russell, Helen Kling



Hymn of Invocation: 478 The Day of Resurrection



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Tune and text: Public domain

Please stand, as you are able

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen. [Matthew 28:19]

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. [Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

Proper *Psalm 81:1, 7a, 10, 16b; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2a*



Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia,*

long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia.

Sing aloud to | God our strength;*

shout for joy to the God of | Jacob!

In distress you called, and I de- | livered you;*

I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.

I am the | LORD your God,*

who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it;*

and with honey from the rock I would sat- | isfy you.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia,*
 long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia.

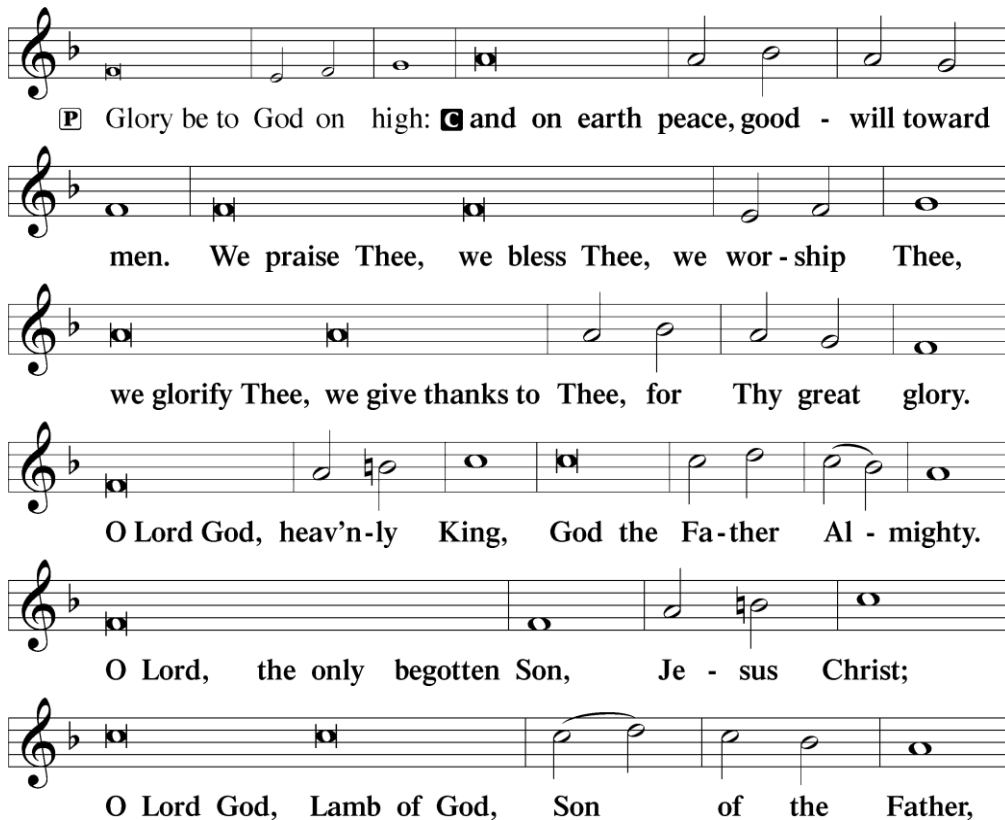
Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

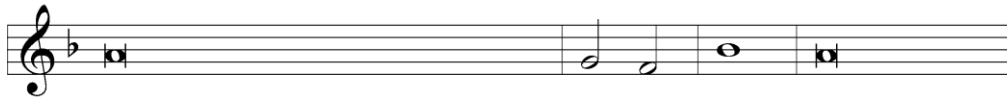




that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



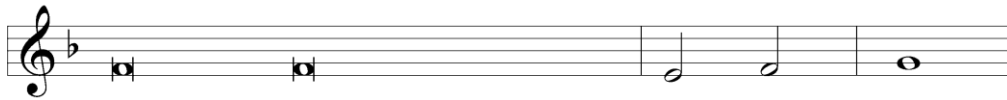
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.

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 A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1–14

The Valley of Dry Bones

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 John 5:4–10

⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Psalm 96:2–3

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P He has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee. Alleluia. Eight days later Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

Jesus and Thomas

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.”

The Purpose of This Book

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.

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

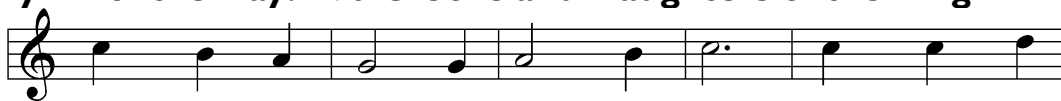
Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and
invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all
 worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the
 Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our
 salvation came down from
 heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy
 Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us
 under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again
 according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the
 Father.

And He will come again with
 glory to judge both the living
 and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no
 end.
 And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father
 and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy
 Christian and apostolic
 Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for
 the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of
 the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to
 come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King



1	O	sons	and	daugh -	ters	of	the	King,	Whom	heav'n -	ly
2	That	Eas -	ter	morn,	at	break	of	day,	The	faith -	ful
3	An	an -	gel	clad	in	white	they	see,	Who	sits	and
4	That	night	the	a -	pos -	tles	met	in	A -	mong	them



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
 speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings
 heard
 That they had seen the risen Lord,
 He doubted the disciples' word.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the
 side;
 "You are my Lord and God!" he
 cried.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
 And look upon My hands, My feet;
 Not faithless but believing be."
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not
 seen
 And yet whose faith has constant
 been,
 For they eternal life shall win.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
 Be laud and jubilee and praise:
 To God your hearts and voices raise.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and
 minds in Christ Jesus. **C** **Amen.**

Philippians 4:7

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

[Offering at the back of church] *[1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18]*

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving to God, who has raised Christ from the dead, that He would bestow His Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins on us; for joyful life as Christians who, through Holy Baptism, have been crucified and raised up with Christ; and that we may be given boldness to testify of Him, His forgiveness and His peace to all who will hear, let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that as Christ appeared alive to His disciples and sent them out to proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name, so He would continue to raise up faithful men for His holy ministry and

bless their work among us who, with St. Thomas, confess Jesus as Lord and God, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have wandered from the household of faith, that faithful to His promises God would work all things in their lives to remind them of their need for His unending grace and steadfast love; and that they would return to the faith and delight in Christ, crucified and raised for them, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**

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, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, /especially _____, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune, that as the disciples were made glad in Christ's risen and life-giving flesh on the first day of the week and again eight days later, so we, too, would find gladness in His wounds and His abiding presence among us each week in the blessed Sacrament; and that God would give us an increasing hunger for the Word of peace given here in this Holy Supper, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that out of Your indescribable grace and for the sake of Your Son You have given us the Holy Gospel and instituted the Holy Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and the forgiveness of sin. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word, and through the Holy Sacraments establish our faith day by day, 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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

[Psalm 136]

C It is meet and right so to do.

[Meet means 'fitting, proper.']

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|---|---|

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20;
1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- 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 ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** 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 ✠ 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

John 20:19

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

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given
into death for your sins. **Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
shed for the forgiveness of your sins. **Amen.**

We ask all who desire to receive communion to please read the communion statement at the front of the bulletin. For those approaching the Lord's Table this day, we ask you to come individually or by family group.

Following Communion, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve
you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Distribution Hymn: 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -
2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is
3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -



pal - me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,
liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,
sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell
mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er
Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is
Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I
Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will
When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall



scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
faith - ful; doubt-ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.
need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 483 With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van-quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003709

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.
A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C**Amen.

P The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spirit.

2 Timothy 4:22

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

A Bless we the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

Hymn to Depart: 488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word



Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service III from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.



To make your offering online, you can scan this code with your smartphone, or go to bit.ly/ThriventOffering.

John 20:19 – “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ ” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us – not our works – we are now free to do good works. Good works shouldn’t be done out of self-interest but for the right reasons – out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

Budget for 2021: \$124,440; Weekly Need: \$2,393
As of April 1st we have received: \$24,340.14 (\$1872.32 Avg/Week)
February Mission Project: \$285; Total Mission Giving YTD: \$1268

What does Quasimodo Geniti mean? It is from the Latin of 1 Peter 2:2 “like newborn infants” that we sing in our Introit today. We have been given new life by Jesus. We are born again in His new life.

Does it have anything to do with “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”? Yes, actually. In the story, Quasimodo is found on the doorsteps of the cathedral on the first Sunday after Easter.

The Wounds of Christ Give Us Life

“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood” (1 John 5:7). These three point to Christ and flow from Christ. Jesus shows His disciples His hands side, from which blood and water flowed, saying *“Peace be with you.”* He presents the wounds which turn our fear to gladness and which restore us to the Father. Jesus breathes on His disciples and says, *“Receive the Holy Spirit”* (John 20:23). His breath, His words are Spirit and life. They raise up our dry, dead bones and give us new and everlasting life (Ezek. 37:1–14). Christ now gives His ministers to speak His forgiving, Spirit-filled words to the penitent in His stead. Our Lord continues to come to His people, presenting His wounds to us in the Sacraments of water and blood. He bids us to touch His side at His table, to receive His risen body and blood in true faith, that believing we may have life in His name.

APRIL MISSIONS: LCMS Joint Seminary Fund

Excellent seminaries are important to everyone who needs the Gospel. Well-formed pastors, deaconesses, ordained missionaries and theological leaders are vital to our life together as they faithfully and accurately teach the Gospel.

For our entire history as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, well-formed and compassionate pastors have been important because the Gospel, faithfully delivered in Word and sacraments, is essential to each of us.

The LCMS supports two seminaries — Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis — with Sunday-morning worship offerings set aside by congregations for district and national/international work.