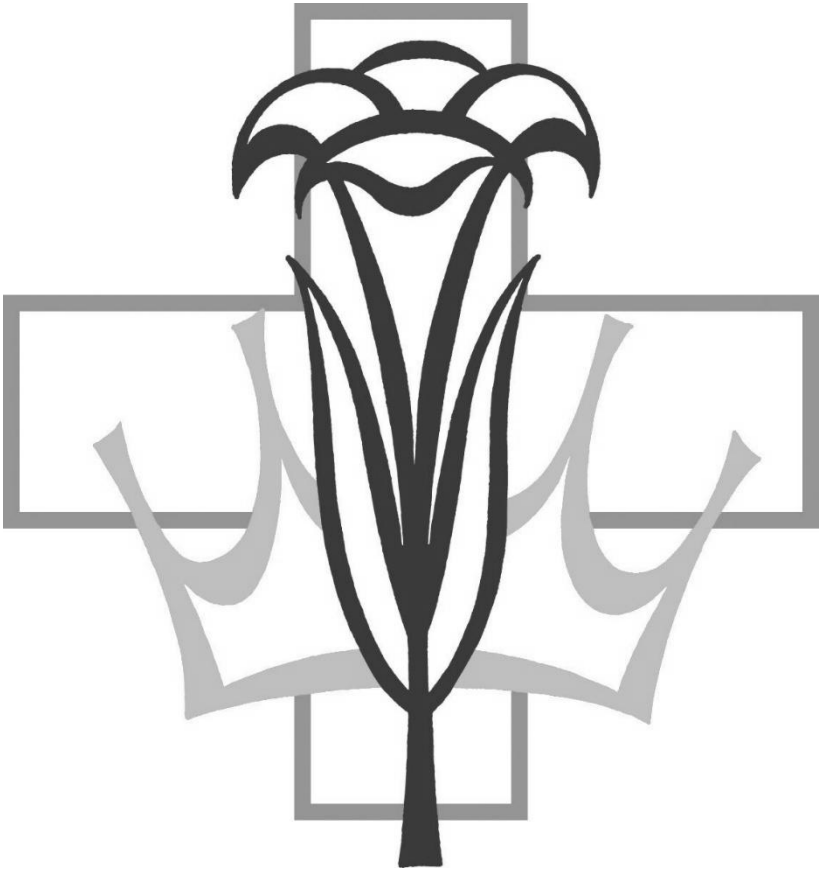


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



Order of Worship

April 12, 2026 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org 781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

email: pastor@lcsavior.org

Introit

Psalm 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Glory be 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.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Communion Theology and Practice

Please see our statement of Communion Theology and Practice on the back page of the worship bulletin.

If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.

Thank you.

Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Service, Setting Four

Welcome

Stand

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

LSB 487



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad-ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap-peared, be - stow - ing
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
His deep peace, which ev - er-more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - come in un-wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

Text and tune: Public domain

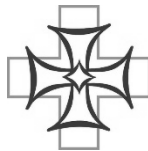
Confession and Absolution

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.**
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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.

Kneel/Stand

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**



Stand

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13



A Together, we sing Psalm 148 responsively:

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is ex- | alted;*
his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

¹Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD from the | heavens;*
praise him | in the heights!**

²Praise him, all his | angels;*
praise him, | all his hosts!

**³Praise him, | sun and moon,*
praise him, all you | shining stars!**

⁴Praise him, you highest | heavens,*
and you waters above the | heavens!

**⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD!*
For he commanded and they were cre- | ated.**

⁶And he established them forever and | ever;*
he gave a decree, and it shall not | pass away.

**⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you great sea creatures and | all deeps,**

⁸fire and hail, | snow and mist,*
stormy wind fulfill- | ing his word!

**⁹Mountains and | all hills,*
fruit trees and all | cedars!**

¹⁰Beasts and all | livestock,*
creeping things and | flying birds!

**¹¹Kings of the earth and all | peoples,*
princes and all rulers | of the earth!**

¹²Young men and maidens to- | gether,*
old men and | children!

**¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is ex- | alted;*
his majesty is above earth and | heaven.**



¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for | all his saints,*
for the people of Israel who are near to him. | Praise the LORD!

C **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.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is ex- | alted,*
his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 5:29–42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council,

rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
42And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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."

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."

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**☩ 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.**


O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471

Refrain



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




1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the
The faith - ful wom - en went their way To seek the
Who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
tomb where Je - sus lay, Al - le - lu - ia!
go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!

4 That night the apostles met in fear;
Among them came their master dear
And said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia!

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

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

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

sts. 8-9 ►

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

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



Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- L** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

The response after each petition is as follows:

- L** Lord, in your mercy:
C Hear our prayer.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

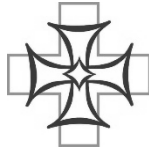
LSB 209

- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
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.**

Benediction

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

C Amen.



Sit

Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

LSB 481

1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an
2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of
3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through-

emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,
God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,
out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:

Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -
Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your
Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be-

clipsed by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!
sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!
gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: French

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Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

12 April 2026

Readings

Acts 5:29–42

1 Peter 1:3–9

John 20:19–31

Christ Jesus Breathes His Spirit and His Life into Us by the Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus establishes the ministry of the Gospel in order to bestow His life-giving Holy Spirit and His peace upon the Church. To those who are called and ordained to this office, and to those they serve in His name, He grants the Holy Absolution of all sins. By the fruits of His cross, He replaces fear and doubt with peace and joy, and thus gives *“repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins”* (Acts 5:31).

Through the preaching of His sent ones, He calls us to believe that He *“is the Christ, the Son of God,”* so that by such faith we *“may have life in his name”* (John 20:31). In His resurrection, we have the *“living hope”* to which we have been *“born again”* and by which we are guarded *“for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”* (1 Peter 1:3, 5). Until then, *“though you have not seen him, you love him,”* and by the mercies of God *“you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory”* (1 Peter 1:8).

Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

1 Peter 1:17–25

Luke 24:13–35

The Risen Lord Jesus Is with Us in Holy Baptism and in 'the Breaking of the Bread'

From *"before the foundation of the world"* until heaven and earth pass away, *"the word of the Lord remains forever"* (1 Peter 1:20, 25). This *"living and abiding word of God"* is the preaching of Christ Jesus, namely that God *"raised him from the dead and gave him glory"* (1 Peter 1:21, 23). By this living word, we *"have been born again"* to eternal life (1 Peter 1:23) and ransomed from our sinful and mortal life *"with the precious blood of Christ"* (1 Peter 1:18–19). This living word also calls us to repentance, to dying and rising in Holy Baptism *"in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"* (Acts 2:38). In this, we receive the Holy Spirit *"for you and for your children and for all who are far off"* (Acts 2:39). Through the preaching of His cross and resurrection, Jesus draws near to bring us *"into his glory"* (Luke 24:26). As He opens the Scriptures, He opens our minds to comprehend *"the things concerning himself"* (Luke 24:27), and He brings us to know Him *"in the breaking of the bread"* (Luke 24:35).



Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!