

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 7, 2024
WORD AND PRAYER

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
613 LOCUST STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901

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WORD AND PRAYER

THE PRELUDE ~

Stand.

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE PRAYER FOR PURITY

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C **and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P The Lord God, Father and Creator spoke all these words saying:

a **I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land**

of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C **I confess to Almighty God, to the Apostles and saints in heaven and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. I ask almighty God, the Apostles and saints in heaven and you my brothers and sisters to forgive me and help me amend my life.**

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As one called and ordained in the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

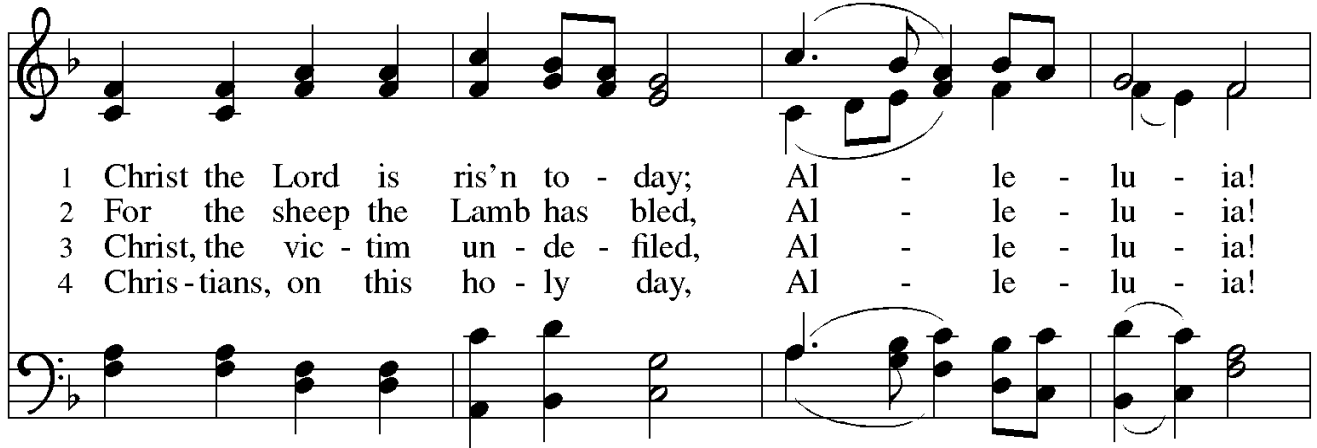
C **Amen.**

P By the same authority, I declare to those who do not repent and believe, that so long as they continue knowingly, arrogantly and willfully in their sins, God has not forgiven them, and will assuredly bring judgment upon them, if they do not turn from their evil ways and come to true repentance and faith in Christ.

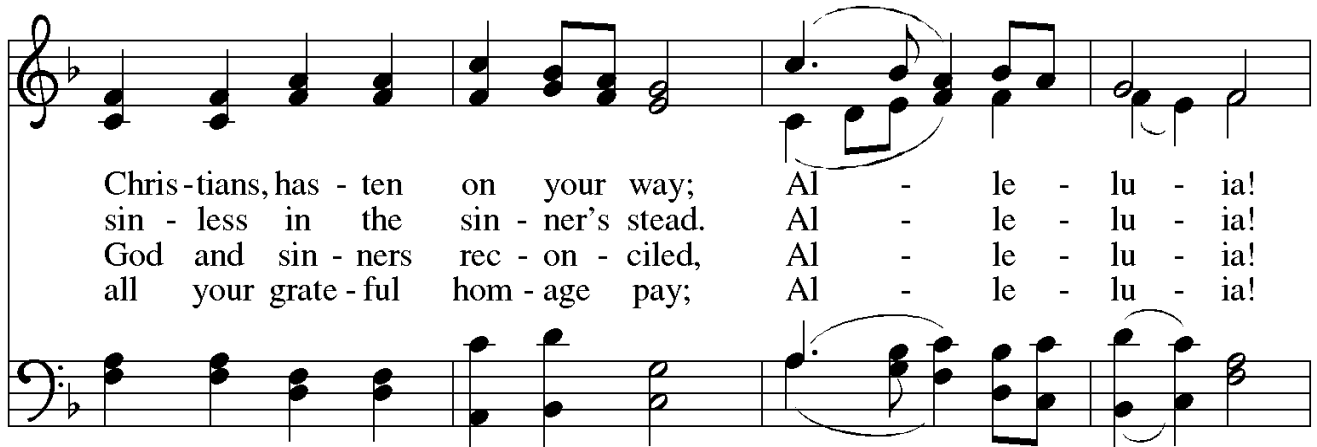
C **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN ~ "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

LBW128



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

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

C **And also with you.**

THE KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C **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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P 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.**

Sit.

THE FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

L A reading from Acts.

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. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: Psalm 133

¹Oh, how good and pleas- | ant it is,*
when brethren live togeth- | er in unity!

²It is like fine oil up- | on the head*
that runs down up- | on the beard,

³**upon the | beard of Aaron,***
and runs down upon the collar | of his robe.

⁴**It is like the | dew of Hermon***
that falls upon the | hills of Zion.

⁵For there the LORD has or- | dained the blessing:*
life for- | evermore.

¹Oh, how good and pleas- | ant it is,*
when brethren live togeth- | er in unity!
Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,*
and to the | Holy Spirit,
as it was in | the beginning,*
is now and will be forev- | er. Amen.

THE SECOND READING: I John 1:1 – 2:2

L A reading from First John

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—²this 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—³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C **Alleluia. Blessed are those who | have not seen* and yet have come | to believe. Alleluia. (John 20:29)**

THE GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

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

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.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he

had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” 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 come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord!

C Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit.

THE HOMILY

Stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY ~ “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

LBW154



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with con - stant
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to you, once



out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing eyes re -
love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will ev - er
Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our strength and
dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther e - qual



stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord! Al - le - lu - ia!
raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield. Al - le - lu - ia!
praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C **I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen:**

**And 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.**

**I 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.**

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**I look for the + resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Guide and protect police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Hear your people crying out for justice, and for a world where all are fed and safe (*especially*). God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Renew bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you (*especially*). Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P In the presence of Christ himself, let us pray as he has taught us.

a **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.**

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection. Alleluia, alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE ~

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