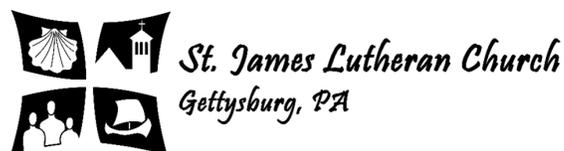


*We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's house with its doors wide open.  
If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, stay with us.  
We invite guests to join us, but most of all, to return often.*

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**Second Sunday of Easter**

April 11, 2021

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.

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## *Gathering*

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *To a Wild Rose*

Edward MacDowell

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

**P** Just as God's work of creation never ends,  
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.  
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:  
for water to bathe in, water to drink,  
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,  
for water that gives life to our planet.

**C** **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

**P** We give you thanks, O God, for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for oceans, rivers, and streams.

**C** **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

**P** We give you thanks for your salvation through water:  
for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters,  
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,

for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,  
for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land,  
for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

**C** We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

**P** We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,  
and for all who gather here;  
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,  
for children and grandchildren,  
for our brothers and sisters in Christ,  
whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

**C** We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

**P** We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:  
for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,  
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,  
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**C** We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

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

1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing  
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,  
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,  
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;  
*Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.*  
 9 On this most ho - ly day of days,

with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:  
 the faith - ful wom - en went their way  
 who sits and speaks un - to the three,  
 a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,  
 be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:

to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!  
 and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*

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

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard, 7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
 that they had seen the risen Lord, he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
 he doubted the disciples' word. "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see, 8 How blest are they who have not seen,  
 and look upon my hands, my feet; and yet whose faith has constant been,  
 not faithless, but believing be." for they eternal life shall win.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastoral Greeting

**P** Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

**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.

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## *Word*

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<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.

### Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<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.

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen 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.

Sermon, followed by a time of silent reflection



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!

Apostles' Creed

**C** 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Petitions conclude: "God of mercy." our response: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

# Sending

God blesses us in mission to the world

## Blessing

**P** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Sending Hymn: *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

ELW 548



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,  
2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low  
3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture;  
4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



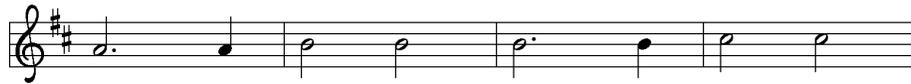
from this meal of love and grace;  
af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;  
God has called us to re - ceive;  
cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion  
bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed  
pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,  
mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
to re - lease and to con - sole.  
Spir - it - ed then let us live.  
from this day and un - to death.



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.



God, the won - der of our days.  
Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.  
Spir - it, grace by whom we live.  
Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Dismissal

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

**P** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *March of the Pilgrims*

William Stickles

Lift up in prayers

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Reese	Jennifer	Martha	Paul
Elinor	Laura	Barry	Richard
Harry	Jack	Nicholas	Rita
Bob	Randall	Brad	Tina
John Michael	Joyce	Sean	Tommy
Muriel	Linda	Cindy	Virginia
Courtney	Jean	Greg	
Marc	Bud	Jennifer	
Karen	Dale	Kate	

*We pray for the family and friends of Shirley Williams, who recently died.*

Flowers

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Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the wedding anniversary of Harold and Oneta Howard by their daughter-in-law and son, Betty and Don Howard.

Participating in Worship

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Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Michael E. Allwein

Reader: Addison Dunlop

Assisting Minister: Anne Young

Organist: Steven Zumbrun

Reader: David Langman

Choir: Kay MacDowell and Ed Riggs

## Acknowledgements

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