

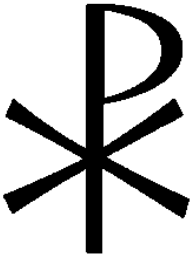
*W*elcome to *W*orship  
St. Luke's **E**vangelical  
**L**utheran **C**hurch



**Christ is Risen, indeed!**  
**Alleluia!**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

April 16, 2023



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*  
Interim Pastor: *Rob Johnson*  
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*  
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*  
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*  
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>  
eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader: *Dwight Patterson*  
Prayer Leader: *Olivia Matthes*  
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*  
Ushers: *Hank Matthes, Zach Stewart,*  
*JoLynn & Don Stewart*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

## **To the Glory of God**

April Altar Candles: *Ruth McKee*  
April Bulletins: [available for sign-up](#)  
April Newsletter: [available for sign-up](#)



**The flowers this morning** are given by Bertha & Jim Carter in celebration of Jen's birthday on April 20.

**North Baltimore Food Pantry April** requested donations include: canned meats.



# Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter – April 16, 2023

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism. \*please stand as you feel comfortable. Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, “Gracious God.” When you exhale, pray, “open my heart.”*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: and also with you**

*Please share God’s peace using the “peace sign.”*

### AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the ✠ One God who, like a farmer, plants the seeds of wisdom, faith, and joy in our hearts, so that we may reap a harvest of new life. If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself and the truth is not in me. However, if I confess my sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive me my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

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

*In your heart and your spirit, confess to God your fears, your anger, your greed, and your disappointments. Lift up the names of people whom you’ve hurt recently.*

**ALL: Most merciful God, I confess that I am captive to sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbors as you have loved me. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me; renew me; and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Leader: Hear these words and believe in their power: Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1:9; James 5:16*

**\*GATHERING HYMN #377**

ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!

**\*KYRIE**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 120

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

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## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

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### **PROPHETIC READING**

ACTS 2:14a, 22-32

Reader: Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, <sup>22</sup>“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. <sup>23</sup>But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. <sup>24</sup>But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. <sup>25</sup>King David said this about him:

‘I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. <sup>26</sup>No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not leave my soul among the

dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. <sup>28</sup>You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. <sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. <sup>31</sup>David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.

<sup>32</sup>“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **DISCIPLESHIP READING**

1 PETER 1:3-9

Reader: <sup>3</sup>All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, <sup>4</sup>and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. <sup>5</sup>And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

<sup>6</sup>So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup>These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

<sup>8</sup>You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. <sup>9</sup>The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 124

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

**\*GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 20:19-31

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of peace through the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord. Through this story of peace and doubt, we are reminded that forgiveness and resurrection are not restricted to the Sunday morning Gospel and Holy Communion. We are able to experience new life in our day to day lives.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 20. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

19-20 Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he showed them his hands and side. 20-21 The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.” 22-23 Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?”

24-25 But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.” But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas said, “My Master! My God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

<sup>30-31</sup> Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Martin Luther’s small catechism reminds us of our commitment to faith. We believe in the promises of the Lord’s prayer and the 10 commandments:

**ALL: I will love God with all my heart soul and strength;  
and I will love my neighbor as I have been loved by God.  
I will help and support others in all of life’s needs.  
I will talk about others in the best possible light.  
I will forgive myself and others just as God forgives me.  
I will care for and preserve the earth and all its abundance, and  
I will share its resources with others.  
I will not hoard what I don’t need;  
I will let go of my regrets;  
and I will grow in the fruits of the Spirit.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #374**

DAY OF ARISING

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Janet, Brittany, Jim, Harry, Julie, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Jack, Rex, Cindy, Susan, Daryl, Aunt Mary, Brianne, Beth, Gerald, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Mike, Chelsea, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Catherine, Ja-nét, Ed, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Betty, Don, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Cindy, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Jayne, Ed, Barb, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, and Dan.

.....who taught us to pray saying,

## THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

**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,**

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



## INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

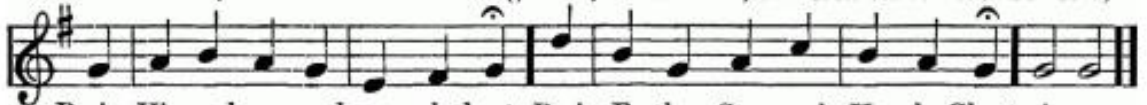
### OFFERTORY

#### \* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

#### THE DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from Whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low;



Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men.



## \* OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Ever-living God, fill us with the hope and joy of the resurrection. With each and all our gifts, bless us anew to bring your new life to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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## THE TABLE PRAYER

Leader: God of all creation, all you have made is good.

**ALL: Your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish me with these gifts. Use me and what I have gathered to feed the world with your love, through the feast of love and bread of life, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE EXHORTATION

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 133

Leader: 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, Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

**ALL: Blessed is the Lord, the God of the universe. God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise the Lord in the heights above. Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, and stormy winds. Praise the Lord, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for they were created.**

*Psalm 148*

Leader: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. And so, with all the universe and the hosts of heaven, we join in praise and sing...

## SANCTUS

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: In the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave a piece to each disciple and said

**ALL: This is my body, given for you. Do this and remember me.**

Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks; and gave it to each disciple to drink, saying

**ALL: This is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this and remember me.**

Leader: We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Sin is conquered! Death is defeated! Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.**

Leader: God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine

**ALL: Grace this table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.**

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please join in prayer if you are unable to receive the elements.*

**ALL: Forgiving and faithful God, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed and Holy Sacrament. Like a seed that pierces the soil with new life, your Spirit breaks through the fear and resentments that harden my heart. Since I cannot now receive You through bread and wine, come spiritually into my heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a forgiving spirit within me. Amen.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

Setting #2 Hymnal page 135

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## \* HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

VERSE 1

### O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Leader: Please join me in the absolution,

**ALL: Merciful and forgiving God, you have made this promise to me: I am a gift. Jesus' story is my story. When I was baptized in Christ Jesus, I was buried with him into his death. As Christ was raised from the dead, I, too, might live a new life. By removing my sins, you give me strength to forgive myself and to forgive those who have offended and sinned against me. Amen.**

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# GOD SENDS US

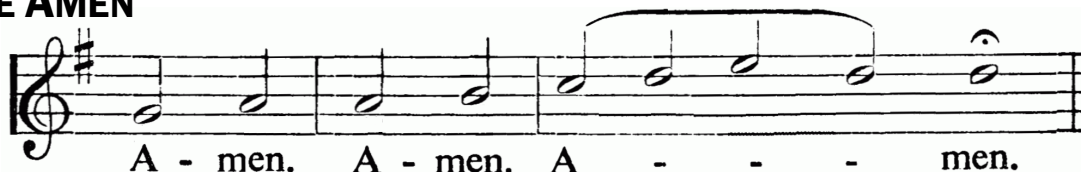
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## \* BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

*We are sent to serve others.*

## \* THE AMEN



## \* SENDING HYMN #537

ON OUR WAY REJOICING

## \* DISMISSAL

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 137

## POSTLUDE

**ELCA "Hunger Appeal" Offering** - Each week as we leave worship, we remember the poor by placing loose change offerings in the "hunger bowl" on the bench in the Narthex.

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# Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for the Altar Guild for their preparations of the Sanctuary for the Holy Week and Easter Services; for all who provided Easter flowers to brighten our worship on Easter Sunday, and for all who participated in our Holy Week and Easter Worship services. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Janet Holloway, Brittany Vanaman, Jim Wymer, Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams, Rex McCarty.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Cindy Meyers, Susan Miller, Daryl Miller, Aunt Mary, Brianne Gott, Beth Johnson, Gerald Leitch, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Mike Lerma, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Catherine Pritts, Ja-nét Moske.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

## Welcomed with Open Arms

Thomas is not the only one missing from the assembly the Sunday after Easter Sunday. We are not told why Thomas is missing, but we do know why plenty of other folks are absent from the assembly: vacations, traveling, spring break for the kids.

Thomas is criticized for doubting, but he asks for nothing more than the same experience of the risen Christ the rest of the disciples had. By the grace of God, Jesus returns a second time and offers his body as living proof to Thomas. In the presence of Jesus, Thomas discovers he



did not need the proof he demanded. Thomas' story is our story. We are not always where we need to be. Sometimes we even find ourselves in places we should not be at all. But Jesus comes to us, seeking us out and giving us the gift of faith. Thomas is not criticized, he is not condemned. Instead Jesus loves Thomas back into a relationship and shows the disciples what the words "Peace be with you" mean when lived out.

The resurrection promise can be heard through Peter's powerful preaching in the reading from Acts as well. Jesus will triumph over death. Peter points to Jesus' death on the cross, but what of the little ways we die? The loss of relationships, the ending of friendships, the pain of being alone and left out, the despair of losing a job, the doubt that comes on the heels of a negative diagnosis. Jesus comes to bring a holy peace and resurrection into the world in these times as well. This Sunday is an opportunity to proclaim the power of the resurrection and the grace of God, who welcomes Thomas with open arms.

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)