

## Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

10:30 am

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.*

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • [stpaulreading.org](http://stpaulreading.org)

# Second Sunday of Easter: April 12, 2026

## Prelude

## Gathering

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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

### Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: **Amen.**

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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C: His mercy endures forever.**

**Entrance Hymn #129 (green hymnal) vv. 1-3**

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

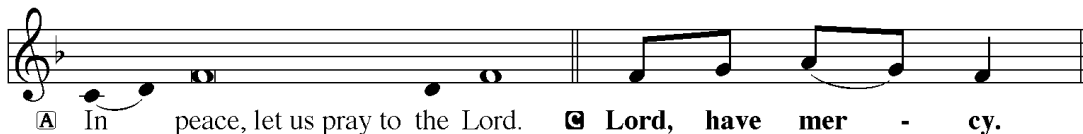
## Greeting

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

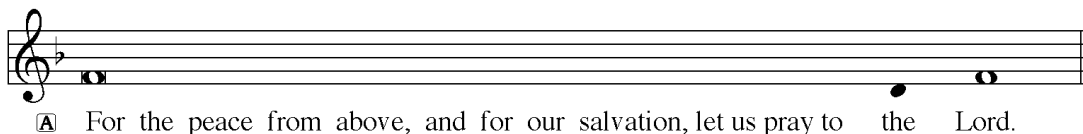
**C:** And also with you.

## Kyrie

## LBW Setting One



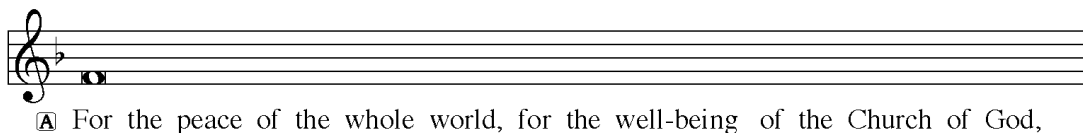
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



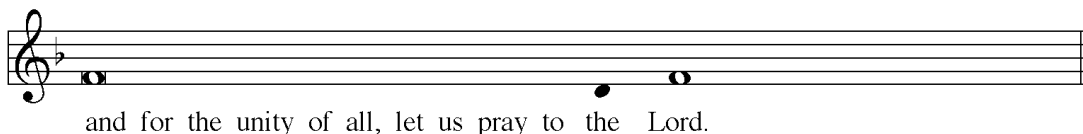
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



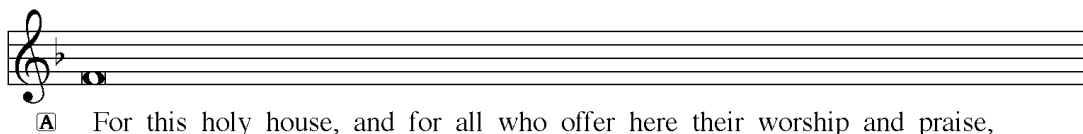
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.      **☐** Lord,      have mer - cy.

**☐** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.      **☐** A -      men

## Hymn of Praise

## LBW Setting One

**☐** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.      **☐** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

**☐** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.      **☐** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or,      bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

## Prayer of the Day



☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## The Word

### Blessing of the Lector

P: Christ is risen!

The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. Carole, as you read to us the scriptures, may they pierce our souls and judge the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: <sup>22</sup>“Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs

that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and fore-knowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

<sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup> “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 16

*The psalm will be spoken responsively. The lector will read the odd verses (in plain text) and the congregation will read the even verses (in bold text).*

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

<sup>8</sup>**I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Hymn #671 (blue hymnal) vv. 1-2**

“Alleluia, Alleluia”

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.



<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, 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 that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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**

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*After the last petition:*

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

### **The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

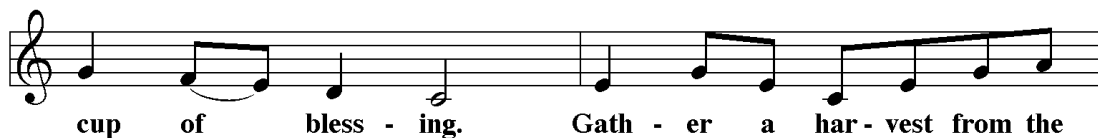
*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Invitation to Offering

A: Let us now give our offering as an act of faith, which is “more precious than gold” so that this gift of faith may “be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 3:7).

## Offering

## LBW Setting One



## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.


## The Meal

### Dialogue

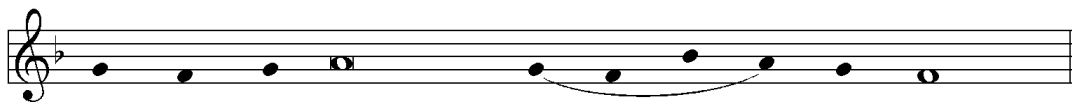
### LBW Setting One



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.



Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the

glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

## LBW Setting One



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We

cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P:** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P:** Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

© Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -  
might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 to Communion**

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*Please be seated.*

## Agnus Dei

## LBW Setting One

☞ 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.

## Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.  
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.*

## Communion Hymn #205 (green hymnal)

“Now the Silence”

## Communion Hymn: "The Risen Christ"



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet  
2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,  
3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand  
4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,  
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide  
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,  
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,  
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;  
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,  
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.  
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.  
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.  
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

## Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## Post-Communion Canticle

## LBW Setting One



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re- calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al- le - lu - ia. Al- le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Prayer

**A:** Let us pray.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**C:** Amen.

## Sending

### Announcements for God's Mission in the World

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, †  
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Closing Hymn #147 (green hymnal)

“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!”

## Easter Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in the peace of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## Postlude

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### Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor  
Kris Keith, Music Director *\*\*away*  
Kate Wollenburg, Organist *\*\*away*  
Carolyn Koehl, Guest Organist  
Ken Keith, Flute

Addy Kruse, Hymn Leader  
Chet Laine, Assisting Minister  
Carole Replogle, Reader  
Carroll Mayhugh, Livestreamer

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, April 12: 2 Easter**

9 am Adult Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship Service

### **Tuesday, April 14**

11 am Bible Study: Travel the Bible

### **Saturday, April 18**

*\*\*Church reserved for wedding  
rehearsal\*\**

### **Sunday, April 19: 3 Easter**

9 am Adult Christian Education  
10 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service

### **Monday, April 20**

*\*\*Epistle items due\*\**

7 pm Council Meeting

### **Tuesday, April 21**

11 am Bible Study: Travel the Bible

### **Saturday, April 25**

*\*\*Church reserved for wedding\*\**

## Copyright Notices

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