



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MADISON, ALABAMA

April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter



In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Good Morning and Welcome!

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

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ORDER OF WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Now the Feast and Celebration

** Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE “Trio on Westminster Abbey” (David Lasky)

Melanie Payne, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism...

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

*GATHERING SONG “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

ELW 384

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

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

ELW 157

Leader
 In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
 For the reign of God, and for
 mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

word, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

***HYMN OF PRAISE “Now the Feast and Celebration”**

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² “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 ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “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. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

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

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

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 16

¹ 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.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the**

people.

³ But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

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

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

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

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

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

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

¹¹ 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 LESSON

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ 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 ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bonnie Flowers

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

*GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL**

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ 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.”

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kristine Schroeder



***HYMN OF THE DAY “We Walk by Faith”**

ELW 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”
we re - joice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***APOSTLES' CREED**

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**

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Offertory: “They Could Not” (Ron Harris and Claire Cloninger)

Holly Martin, Soprano

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.

all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE

Presider: *Congregation:*

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

Presider: *Congregation:*

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

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

***SANCTUS**

ELW 191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.


Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**


**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**

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.


Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN “Now We Join in Celebration”

ELW 462



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

HYMN “Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

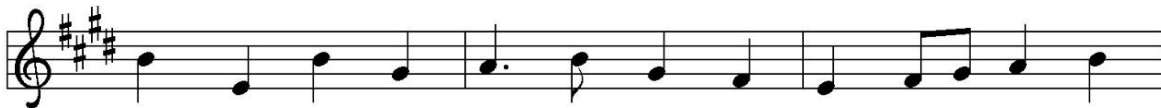
HYMN “Eat This Bread”

ELW 472 (not printed)

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Praise to You, O God of Mercy”

ELW 208



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda \oplus | 1 | 2

thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

\oplus Coda

ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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*BLESSING

Presider: May God bless and keep us.
 May God's face shine on us and be gracious.
 May God look on us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

Presider: *Congregation:*

— give us peace. A - men.



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **We will! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE "Psalm 19" (Benedetto Marcello)

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Norma Freymuth	Victoria Zutter	David
Don & Lizzie Palmer	Larry	Beth
Lindsey & the Porter Family	Brittany	Kathi
Kevin	Stephen	Paulette McNamara
Leighann	Rich	Roger Torbert
Connie Stanger	David, Bryant & Sharon	Family of Pam Linen

THE FLOWERS today are given to the Glory of God by Laura Peterson. Alleluia!

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee and fellowship after service in the Fellowship Hall.

NURSERY staffed by Hannah Seitz, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A MEANINGFUL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER! The preparations of the church grounds, the music, breakfast, Easter lilies and flowers, Alleluia banners, treats, donations and especially your presence during worship made for a memorable week as we honor the resurrection of our Savior. Thank you all!

JUST A FEW MORE SLOTS LEFT TO FILL ON MESSIAH’S LEADERSHIP TEAM. We are so close to rounding out our leadership team! Position left opened: Vice President, Treasurer, Education and Youth, *Stewardship (1 year mid-term), and a Youth Representative (a high school aged youth). Send nominations to Jeff Christensen, bamajeffyc@gmail.com or contact Jeff if you have any questions about the positions.

MUSIC CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL MAY 10th. Sign your child up this summer for a fun week of music, learning God’s word and recreational activities. Camp is from Monday, June 1 to Sunday, June 7, 2026. Open to rising Kindergarteners through rising 9th Graders. Invite everyone you know! We will need lots of volunteers to make this a success. Registration and Camp Details and Volunteer Sign Up can be found by scanning the QR codes provided. Contacts: Bonnie Flower, Laura Peterson.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS AT ST. MATTHEW’S THIS YEAR. June 22-25 (5-8pm). Registration details coming soon.

MESSIAH NAME TAGS. If you did not receive your name tag or if you missed the deadline and would like to place an order, please let the office or Laura Peterson know.

KIT MINISTRY – 4 oz. Bars of Soap FOOD PANTRY – Detergent

8:30 Worship		11:00 Worship	
Lector	Greg Kilby	Ushers	Paul Arnold, Bill Holbrook
Ushers	Dagmar Mill, Owen Wasmoean	Altar Guild	Karen Arnold
Altar Guild	Linda Peirce	Stream Team	Miles Bennett
Stream Team	Timothy Pitchko, Meredith Kilby		

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, April 12

- 8:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship Now the Feast with the Lord’s Supper
- 9:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. – Service of Worship Now the Feast with the Lord’s Supper
- 12:15 p.m. - Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

Tuesday, April 14

- 9:00 a.m. – Comforters

Wednesday, April 15

- 6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Night Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16

- 6:30 p.m. – Kit Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting

Sunday, April 19

- 8:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship Now the Feast with the Lord’s Supper
- 9:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. – *Service of Worship Now the Feast with the Lord’s Supper
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

*These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org and on MLC’s App

LOOKING AHEAD

- April 25 - SES Revival, Nashville TN
- April 26 - MOES + MESY Family Panoply Outing
- April 29 - Final Wednesday Confirmation Class
- May 3 - Affirmation of Baptism for confirmands
- May 17 - Final Sunday School Class, End of Year Party, Graduate Recognition Sunday

- May 24 - Summer Schedule Starts
- May 25 - Memorial Day, Office Closed
- June 1 - 7 - Music Camp
- June 22 – 25 - Vacation Bible School at St. Matthews

ATTENDANCE March 29 Online: 44 April 5: 8:30 – 166 11:00 – 110

Pastor	Kristine Schroeder	Interim Youth Leader	Connor Campbell
Director of Music	Randall Fields	Communications Director	Jan Morrison
Organist/Accompanist	Melanie Payne	Office Manager	Jill Casey