



Second Sunday of Easter April 7, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
ascensionlutheranchurch.org

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome! *Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or this has been your faith community for many years, we welcome you to worship.*

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.*

A few notes on how we worship together:

Today's worship is Service of the Word. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we hear and proclaim the saving word of God for all the world. We give thanks for that saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need.

During the Prayers of People, you are welcome to voice your prayers out loud or you may fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. The yellow prayer sheets will be collected by the usher after the sermon. Prayer requests will be voiced by the Pastor and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email.

We welcome Kathleen Getaz (she/her) as our guest preacher today. Kathleen graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity in 2023, and is currently completing a Masters of Social Work at Rutgers. She has a background in Lutheran outdoor ministry, youth ministry, and interfaith social justice work; and is passionate about cultivating inclusive community.

Cover Image: "2nd Sunday of Easter," The Rev'd Sarah West | visiolectio.com

Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

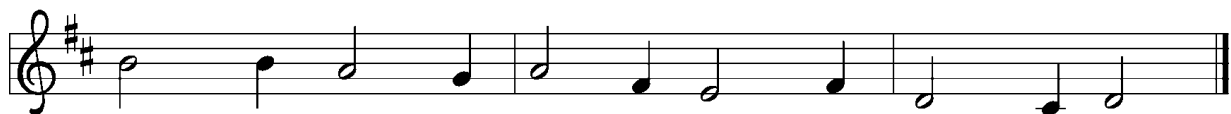
OPENING HYMN | THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT



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

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE | THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

2 Power and riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

Refrain

3 Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation;
Blessing and honor, glory and might
to God and the Lamb forever Amen.

Refrain

4 For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign.
Alleluia.

Refrain

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright © 1978
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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.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING | ACTS 4:32-35

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

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 133 *prayed responsively*

How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his
robe.**

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for-
evermore.

SECOND READING | 1 JOHN 1:1—2:2

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—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—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. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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

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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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GOSPEL | JOHN 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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

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.” 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.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 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.”

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kathleen Getaz

SERMON

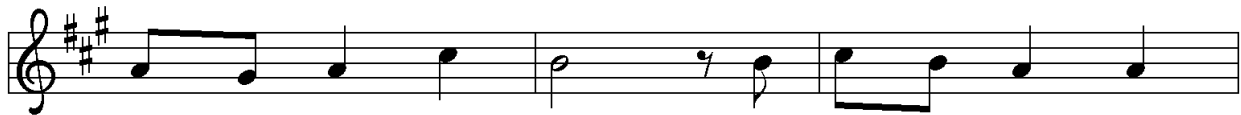
Kathleen Getaz

HYMN OF THE DAY | WE WALK BY FAITH

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day



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 - jice, 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

P Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 to heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of God 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 THE PEOPLE

AM God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of risen Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for the Word proclaimed among us.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings.
You may also give online by visiting ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give. Thank
you for your gifts.*

OFFERING HYMN | PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the hymn.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

AM Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR YOUR WORD

AM Let us pray.

AM Praise and thanks to you, Holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

AM By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

AM Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

AM Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

AM Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

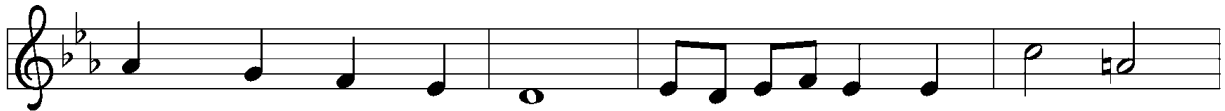
SENDING HYMN | THINE IS THE GLORY



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
greet 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!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

DISMISSAL

AM Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thank you to our volunteers:

Assisting Minister Lynn D'Esmond
Reader Sheryl White
Counters Blaine Orth
 Barbara Raabe
Greeter Irene Miller
Fellowship..... Anne Chmielewski
Tech John Carducci
 Tony Eith

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



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The Church Office is open Wednesdays from
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.
Pr. Kayla is available by appointment Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Learn more about our community at ascensionlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
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