



**The Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Theme of the Day: What Difference Does It Make? He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace
Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder whether anything he said was true. Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, Thomas still had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. Today I have great comfort as someone with doubts about Christ's promises in my life. Jesus engages me with continuing assurances in Word and sacrament. I have proof. I have peace.

Order of Service: Service Setting One (CW page 154)

Prayer upon entering church: Lord, you patiently dealt with Thomas who was struggling with doubt and unbelief. Please exercise the same patience and care when dealing with my doubt and unbelief too. Thank you for your patience and build me up in my faith. Amen.

Opening hymn: This Joyful Eastertide (CW 449)

Invocation and Confession

The Word

Prayer of the Day

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a,22-32 – The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so they could testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: "Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. This man, who was handed over by God's set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue re- / jices;
my body also will / rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm / of the dead,
nor will you let your Holy One / see decay.
You make known to me the / path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at / your right hand.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Dale A. Witte
Setting: Dale A. Witte

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Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 – St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Stand

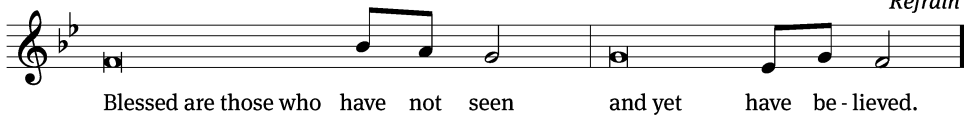
Gospel Acclamation *John 20:29*



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel: John 20:19-31 – Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas.

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.” After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: O Sons and Daughters of the King (CW 456)

Sermon: Resurrection Confidence (Acts 2:14a, 22-32)

Apostles' Creed (CW 163)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering: We give our gifts to the Lord and sing "In You Is Gladness" (CW 513 vs. 1) in response to our offerings.

Lord's Supper (CW page 165)

Prayer and Blessing (CW page 171)

Closing hymn: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (CW 452)

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to our guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next week we'll celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter Our lessons will be from Acts 2:14a, 32-41, 1 Peter 1:17-21 and Luke 24:13-35. Our sermon will be based on 1 Peter 1:17-21 with the theme, "We Are Strangers Here."

Hospitalized/Homebound members/people to keep in your prayers: Janice Hooten, Elmer Guritz, Myrna Vandergriff and David Moeller (juvenile diabetes).

Treats have a signup in the narthex.

Forward in Christ is available in the narthex.

Bible Class will look at Luke 24:13-35 for Bible Class next week.

LWMS Rally will be held on Saturday, April 18 at Lord and Savior Lutheran Church in Crystal Lake.

ILS Golf Outing The ILS Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at Deer Creek Golf Club. Registration will begin at 10:45 a.m. for a noon scramble start. If interested in playing and need a team, contact David Kenyon (kenyondavid19@gmail.com) or Mark Reiners (marksprinting@gmail.com). Register to play or sponsor at ilsouting.com.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship with communion 9am
Sunday School after worship
Bible Study after worship
Sunday: Worship 9am
Sunday School after worship
Bible Study after worship

Organist: Thank you to Doreen Romadka
Last Week's Attendance: Worship 73

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