

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Blessed Be!—in the Verbs

April 26 & 27, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

### AS WE GATHER

Praise God that in Christ He is at work for your salvation. Peter describes God's saving work using strong action verbs. "He *has caused* us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Your imperishable, undefiled, unfading inheritance is "*kept* in heaven" by God for you (v. 4). And you, yourself, are "by God's power *being guarded* through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (v. 5). God is at work, so God gets the credit. Blessed be His name!

### WELCOME

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3*

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

### OPENING HYMN #790 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning

and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,

Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;

Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**People: According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again**

Pastor: To a living hope

**People: through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

Pastor: By God's power

**People: We are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed  
in the last time.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Father of all mercy and grace,

**People: We confess to you our sins of body, mind, spirit, and tongue. We readily  
acknowledge with our minds the victory of the Lord Jesus over death  
and the grave, but we so easily deny the power of His resurrection in  
our daily lives. We are sorry, and we want to do better. As Jesus came  
among His followers that night in the upper room, let Him now come  
among us speaking your peace, breathing out your Spirit, and granting  
us your absolution, which He won for us by His dying and His rising  
again.**

Pastor: God has heard your confession and speaks peace to you in Jesus' name.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I  
therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +  
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

Page 155

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

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

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**+ WORD +**

### **FIRST READING Acts 5:29–42**

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead – whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

### **EPISTLE 1 Peter 1:3–9**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an

inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **5:00 ANTHEM**

*"Sing to the Lord With Joy"*

*Jr Choir*

(Rise)

### **HOLY GOSPEL John 20:19–31**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you! Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded 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.

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **SERMON HYMN #480**

**"He's Risen, He's Risen"**

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Then sing your hosannas and rise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:  
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

**SERMON**                    *“Doubts, Peace, and Living Hope”*                    John 20 and 1 Peter 1

(Rise)

**APOSTLES' CREED** (*found on the inside back cover in the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register for names of those to greet after the worship

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. God of mercy, when Thomas refused to believe, our Lord revealed Himself so that Thomas might know the peace, joy and comfort of our Lord's resurrection.

**People: Deliver us all from doubts and fears that are bound to come when we turn away from the promise of Your Gospel.**

Pastor: God of mercy, restore those who have wandered from the faith and are lost in error's maze. Rekindle the fire of the Spirit in the hearts of those whose faith has grown cold,

**People: and restore the many who have lost their way.**

Pastor: God of mercy, continue to enlighten your Church, that she may shine the light of your Gospel on all those who sit in darkness and death. Bless

Matthew, our Synod president; John, our district president, our pastors, teachers, and all church workers and missionaries.

**People: Give them zeal for your Word and for your house.**

Pastor: God of mercy, come to the aid of the nations. Where there is war, bring peace. Where there is disaster and suffering, bring comfort and hope. Where there is injustice and cruelty, bring relief to the oppressed. Where there is violence and hatred, bring love.

**People: Bless especially our president, governor, mayor and all elected and appointed civil servants on every level of government.**

Pastor: God of mercy, lead us to be good citizens and good neighbors. Help us to aspire to what is good and right, that we may show forth the virtue of your grace in our love for one another.

**People: Bless us to be a sincere witness in word and deed to those who do not believe.**

Pastor: God of mercy, bless and be with the sick and the afflicted, especially John, our district president, Carol, Susan, Virginia, Lou Ann, Mae, Dennis, Rosalie, Dorothy, Ruth, Warren, Dorothy, Sarah, Joe, and those we name in our hearts.

**People: Grant them healing, if it be your will. Grant them always patience and perseverance, and comfort and hope through faith in Christ.**

Pastor: God of mercy, we rejoice in the hope of resurrection and life eternal. Grant us all greater faith in your promises, and fill us with joy and peace as we remember loved ones who have passed on, especially for Sue as she remembers her father, August.

**People: Grant us the firm conviction of the grand reunion to come with all those who have died in Christ.**

Pastor: God of mercy, prepare us for this Holy Communion, that we may receive faithfully the body and blood of Christ in this bread and cup,

**People: and move us by your Spirit to adorn this Gospel with glad hearts in all godliness and holy living.**

Pastor: God of mercy, accept the tithes and offerings we bring as part of our worship and praise. Help us to recognize that all we call our own has truly come from your gracious hand.

**People: Grant us cheerful hearts as we return to you what is already yours as an act of faith and gratitude.**

Pastor: God of mercy, hear us and the prayers and supplications we bring to you.  
Give us all things needful for this body and life, and keep us, we pray, holy  
and blameless, that we may be ready to receive you when you come  
again in your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** (Sung to Tune: LSB #469 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today")

Lamb of God for sinners slain; This world's sin You take away.

Lamb of God, O Christ, give peace; Grant us mercy, grant us grace.

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(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS  
congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor  
or an elder first.

### HYMN #487 "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness,  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,  
Led them with un-moistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has risen;  
All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying  
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts Comes its joy to render;  
Comes to gladden faithful hearts Which with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection!

For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing  
His deep peace, which evermore Passes human knowing.  
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark portal  
Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold Him as a mortal.

Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal,  
Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark portal.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!

### HYMN #547 "The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain** *Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

### HYMN #643 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave. The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,  
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living  
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed be your name, Lord God Almighty, for you have again fed us with the true body and precious blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. He died and rose once-for-all, and through this meal your saving work among us continues. Here you forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, give courage to our love, and enliven our hope; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN #803 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Junior Choir Director  
Organist  
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Debbie Ulbing  
Ana Gonzalez-Clark, Nate Gottschalk  
Shannon Wiegert  
Roger Gottschalk  
Kim Woller

### *VisionPath - Planning For the Future*

#### Vision Planning Session

What are your hopes for the future of St. Paul's? Do you have any ideas that you believe would help us further the mission of Christ among us? Do you have suggestions for strengthening both our church and school ministries? You are invited to join in a gathering to be held **Saturday, May 3, from 9:00am to Noon in the Fellowship Hall**. The Rev. John Sproul will be directing our session and be working with us over the coming months as we seek the Lord's will for the future He has planned for us! (Eph. 2:10) All are welcome to attend. Invite a fellow member to join you.

#### Can't Attend Vision Path on May 3? Please take the survey!

Take a survey: Be a part of the future of our congregation by taking this on-line survey you'll find at <http://survey.lcef.org/s3/1618183-VisionPath-Survey-St-Paul-West-Allis-WI>  
This survey will ask your opinions on the strengths of our congregation, the needs of our community, and the direction you believe the Lord is calling us to take for the future he envisions. Deadline for the taking of the survey is Monday, April 28. If you desire to use a paper survey instead, we will make those available at our new Welcome Center located in the narthex and in the elevator room.