



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH



**THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN**

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## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ (John 20:19-31)*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 | 10:00 AM**

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through  
Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

**If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info.** A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

## RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

## FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at [j80j84@msn.com](mailto:j80j84@msn.com) (preferred) or [pastor.apostles@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.apostles@gmail.com). Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

## PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

## NAME TAGS

**Please wear your nametag!** Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

# GATHERING

*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.*

## PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

## 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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us: the Piankatank River, the North River, the Ware River, the East River, the York River, the Chesapeake Bay. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

**ELW #675**

### "O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on  
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers  
3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -  
4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on  
5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -  
lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and  
way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -  
oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed  
ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.  
minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.  
press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.  
sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.  
praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite

Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## EASTER PROCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**ELW #394**

**Hail Thee Festival Day, Verse 1**

*Refrain*

Hail thee, fes - ti-val day! Blest day to be hal-lowed for - ev - er;

day when our Lord was raised, break-ing the king - dom of death.

*Easter 1* All the fair beau - ty of earth from the

death of the win - ter a - ris - ing! Ev - 'ry good

*Refrain*

gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns:

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

**Amen.**

# WORD

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

*Sit*

## FIRST READING

## ACTS 2: 14A, 22-32

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

<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 foreknowledge 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."

*Response after the First Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## PSALM 16

- <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 up on my lips. R**
- <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. R**
- <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. R



## GOSPEL

## JOHN 20: 19-31

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<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.

*The gospel concludes:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## SERMON

**PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

*Silence is kept after the reflection.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #380**

**"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"**



- 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

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*



# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Sit

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

To give online:

† Visit [apostles-elca.org/contributions](http://apostles-elca.org/contributions)

† From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

## DOXOLOGY

**ELW #884**

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. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;  
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Psalm 150; Is. 6:1–4; Rev. 4:8*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. 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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

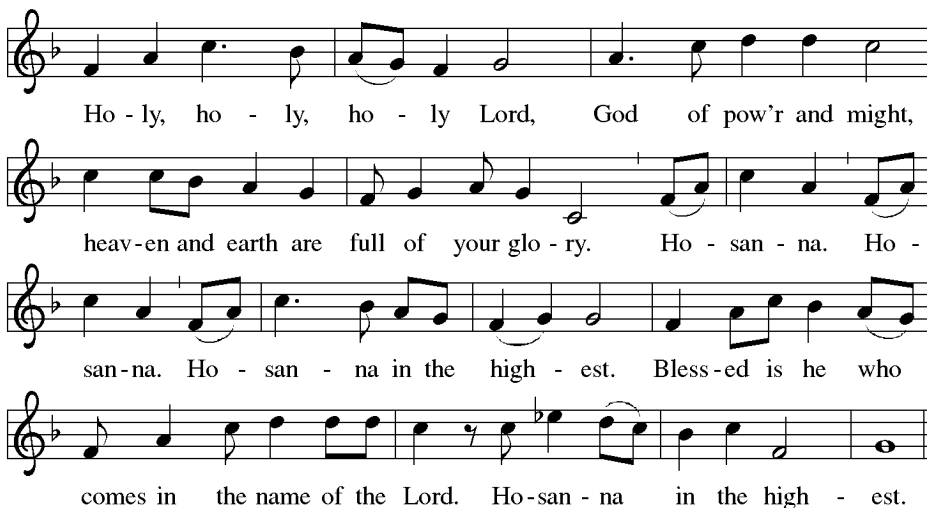
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving concludes.*

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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

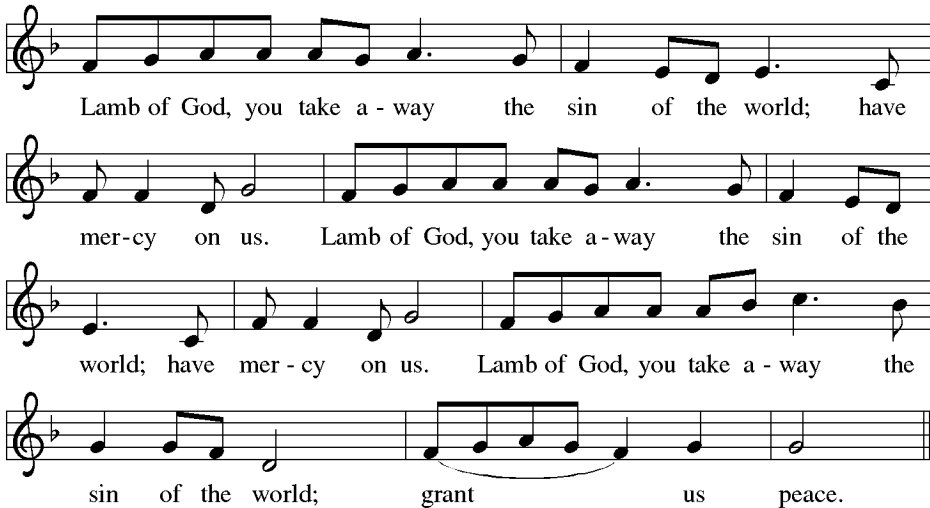
*Sit*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.*

*You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

# HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #462

## “Now We Join in Celebration”



- 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.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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*After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.*

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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,

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.*

## **BLESSING**

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.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW #376

### "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



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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# POSTLUDE

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

	<b>Serving Today</b>	<b>Serving Next Week</b>
<b>Worship Leader/Preacher</b> .....	Pastor Jay Serafin .....	Pastor Jay Serafin
<b>Lay Assisting Minister</b> .....	David Leunig .....	Linda Hodges
<b>Lector</b> .....	David Leunig .....	Tonia Fallin
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Chase Ambrose .....	Ray Scholz
<b>Accompanist</b> .....	Janet Gomez .....	Janet Gomez
<b>Choir Director</b> .....	- .....	Sue Turner
<b>Altar Care</b> .....	Judy Wright .....	-
<b>Communion Bread</b> .....	The Lowes .....	-
<b>Greeter/Usher</b> .....	Judy Wright .....	Cynthia Lowe
<b>Technology</b> .....	Doug Dalager .....	Jason Lowe

## SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	<b>Serving This Week</b>	<b>Serving Next Week</b>
<b>Cleaning Team</b> .....	Gomez .....	Alberts / Runk
<b>Tellers</b> .....	Daniel Gomez / Barbara Runk .....	Linda Hodges / Tonia Fallin
<b>Fellowship Set Up</b> .....	Jennie Hawkins .....	Ray Scholz
<b>Fellowship Food</b> .....	Scholzs .....	Tonia Fallin / Ellen Quirk
<b>Fellowship Clean Up</b> .....	Jamie Serafin / Tonia Fallin .....	Scholzs

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

**First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**  
*Receiving God's promise through baptism*

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23**  
*Born anew through the living word of God*

**Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19**  
*I will call on the name of the LORD.*

**Gospel: Luke 24:13-35**  
*Eating with the risen Christ*

## **WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS**

Thomas is not the only one missing from the assembly the Sunday after Easter Sunday. We are not told why Thomas is missing, but we do know why plenty of other folks are absent from the assembly: vacations, traveling, spring break for the kids.

Thomas is criticized for doubting, but he asks for nothing more than the same experience of the risen Christ the rest of the disciples had. By the grace of God, Jesus returns a second time and offers his body as living proof to Thomas. In the presence of Jesus, Thomas discovers he did not need the proof he demanded. Thomas' story is our story. We are not always where we need to be. Sometimes we even find ourselves in places we should not be at all. But Jesus comes to us, seeking us out and giving us the gift of faith. Thomas is not criticized, he is not condemned. Instead Jesus loves Thomas back into a relationship and shows the disciples what the words "Peace be with you" mean when lived out.

The resurrection promise can be heard through Peter's powerful preaching in the reading from Acts as well. Jesus will triumph over death. Peter points to Jesus' death on the cross, but what of the little ways we die? The loss of relationships, the ending of friendships, the pain of being alone and left out, the despair of losing a job, the doubt that comes on the heels of a negative diagnosis. Jesus comes to bring a holy peace and resurrection into the world in these times as well. This Sunday is an opportunity to proclaim the power of the resurrection and the grace of God, who welcomes Thomas with open arms.

## **PASTOR JAY ON VACATION**

Pastor Jay will be on vacation this week – he will return to the office on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you need pastoral care or assistance, please contact Pete Liljeberg, p.liljebert58@gmail.com or at 518-222-0528.

## **THOUGHTS FOR TODAY**

The church keeps Easter for eight Sundays. Early Christians referred to Sunday as the eighth day, as if the normal week of seven is miraculously completed in an extraordinary eighth day. The fifty days culminates at Pentecost. Each Sunday, individually and communally, we meet the risen Christ in word and sacrament.

The Islamic mystic poet Rumi wrote: “Why do you stay in prison when the door is so wide open?” The disciples’ experience of being locked in a room out of fear is one that many of us understand. Fear often feels like a prison, and what we are afraid of can truly be a threat to our well-being. The resurrection, however, opens the prison door, and the Spirit that Jesus breathed on the disciples enables them to be sent. As a community, what is our “why” for staying in the room when the door is so wide open? (Rumi, *The Essential Rumi*, trans. Coleman Banks [New York: HarperCollins, 2004], 3)

## **NEW ADULT STUDY TO START IN APRIL**

A new adult study will begin **in April on the 22nd**—“Understanding the New Testament.” The class will be led by Pastor Jay—it will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month—bring a sandwich for dinner at 6:00 PM and the study will begin on 6:30 PM—please make plans to join us!!

## **APOSTLES LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Today we gather on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, and Nansemond peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Heidi Henderson, Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Ben Slider (IV), Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, and Lena Woodlief**

## **OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Patricia Armentor** (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Gayle Buck, Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, Kate Casper, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Al DeWitt, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, the family of Mike Hall, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Sylvia Midgette** (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Pastor Wendy Roundy, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackelford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Marier Upshrie, the family of Nancy Wagner, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (Tina Britt's niece), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

## **OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA**

**Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

# THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

**APRIL 12, 2026 – APRIL 19, 2026**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Sunday School/Coffee Fellowship
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 PM	AA
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:30 AM 7:00 PM	Jubilee Churches Choir Practice
<b>FRIDAY</b>		Girl Scouts
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service / World Hunger</b> <b>Sunday, Offering of Letters</b> Sunday School/Coffee Fellowship

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

**Jamie Serafin** – Apr 18<sup>th</sup> | **Marina Allen** – Apr 19<sup>th</sup>

## HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY TO ...

**Abel Britt** – Apr 18<sup>th</sup> | **Margaret Grimes** – Apr 19<sup>th</sup>

