

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE SONG “Beautiful Savior” LSB 537, sts. 1-4

MESSAGE OF THE DAY  
“PEACE AND EQUALITY”

(Text: John 20:21-22) The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

STATEMENT OF FAITH *Apostles’ Creed*  
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heav-  
en and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P. Together let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us...  
C. 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 for-  
give 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

BENEDICTION

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of  
God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with  
you all.  
C. Amen.

(Please sit)

CLOSING SONG

“That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright” sts. 1-5

1 That Easter day with joy was bright:  
The sun shone out with fairer light  
When, to their longing eyes restored,  
The apostles saw their risen Lord!

2 His risen flesh with radiance glowed;  
His wounded hands and feet He showed;  
Those scars their solemn witness gave  
That Christ was risen from the grave.

3 O Jesus, King of gentleness,  
With constant love our hearts possess  
That we may give You all our days  
The tribute of our grateful praise.

4 O Lord of all, with us abide  
In this our joyful Eastertide;  
From ev’ry weapon death can wield  
Your own redeemed forever shield.

(Please stand)

5 All praise to You, O risen Lord,  
Now both by heav’n and earth adored;  
To God the Father equal praise,  
And God the Spirit, now we raise! *Public domain*

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!  
C. Thanks be to God!

\* \* \* TO GOD BE THE GLORY \* \* \*

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THE CONNECTION  
April 27, 2025 10:30am



PRELUDE / WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS (please fill out Friendship Pads)

WORSHIP SONG *Oh, He’s King of Kings”* sts. 1-2

Refrain:  
Oh, He’s King of kings,  
Oh, He’s Lord of lords!  
Jesus Christ, the First and Last,  
No man works like Him.

1. I know that my Redeemer lives,  
No man works like Him,  
And by His love sweet blessings gives.  
No man works like Him. [Refrain]
2. Victorious at God’s right hand,  
No man works like Him,  
He calls His saints from ev’ry land,  
No many works like Him. [Refrain]

*Text & Tune: American spiritual  
Public domain*

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

P. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
C. Amen

**CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS**

- P. Almighty God, have mercy on us for Christ’s sake.
- C. Almighty God, I am unworthy of You and Your grace and mercy. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. And I cannot free myself from this condition. Therefore, I take refuge in Your loving-kindness; and I ask for Your forgiveness. We ask for Your forgiveness.**
- P. Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and on His behalf, I say to you, “You are forgiven.” In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen.**

*(Please sit)*

**FIRST READING Acts 5:12-21a**

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

- L. Here ends the first reading.
- C. Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING Revelation 1:4-18**

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

- L. Here ends the second reading.
- C. Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**GOSPEL READING John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And 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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- P. Here ends the reading of the Gospel.
- C. Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please sit)*

**TITHES & OFFERING “This Is the Day” Duet**  
*(While the music is playing, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the plate.)*