



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

Victorious

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- Large print service folders and assisted listening devices are available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or available online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.
- Please join us for Bible study at 9:15 a.m.
The Book of Daniel (Fellowship Hall, lower level of church)
A staffed nursery is available during Bible study

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022

Witness Marches Victorious Over Restraint.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Christian Worship 462

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
- 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
- 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
- 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
- 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free — to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, — bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *v. 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun his — reign. — Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*



Final Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 5:12,17-32⁺

The disciples witnessed to Christ's resurrection in the face of those who sought to restrain the spread of the gospel.

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

⁺**Acts:** On most Sundays during the church year, the first lesson is a reading from an Old Testament book. But on each of the six Sundays in the Easter season, this lesson comes instead from the New Testament book of Acts. Acts serves as a bridge for the writings of the New Testament. It tells of the birth and infancy of the Christian church: the 30 years between the events occurring in the Gospels and the writing of the epistles. Luke records the spreading of the gospel from Jerusalem throughout the lands of the eastern Mediterranean to Rome, the capital and political center of the Roman Empire.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 150

Refrain

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

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

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

le - lu - jah. jah. jah.

Praise God in this holy place,
ev'ry nation, ev'ry race.
Come, make joyful music to the LORD.
Sound the trumpet, sound it clear;
sound it for the world to hear
Come, make joyful music to the LORD. *Refrain*

Ev'rything that breathes now praise;
sing your songs, let voices raise.
Come, make joyful music to the LORD.
Play the cymbals, play the lute;
play the timbrel, play the flute.
Come, make joyful music to the LORD. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

Revelation 1:4–18

*The risen Savior promises to be with his churches
as they witness to the gospel in the midst of persecution.*

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

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

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:19–31

The Easter gospel enables us who are not eyewitnesses to also believe.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, 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's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as 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."

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 performed many other 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 Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem

Grades 3 & 4

Believing Is Seeing

by Mary Dorn Lippert

Jesus said to Thomas, "See the nail wounds in my hands.
Put your fingers in the sword wounds in my side.
Stop doubting and believe!" Then Thomas, on his knees, said,
"My Lord and my God!"

Because he had seen him, Thomas believed.
Blessed are those who never have seen and yet believe.
Through eyes of faith they come to see
Jesus has handed them the victory!

With faith as small as a mustard seed,
we could move mountains here, and there, and into the sea.
With such a faith, all things are achieved,
Nothing's impossible for those who believe!

Lord, I believe; please help my unbelief!
Strengthen my faith and help me trust in you!

Believing is seeing God's love through his Son
whose sacrifice has paid the price for what I have done.
Through eyes of faith I've come to see
eternal life through Christ waiting for me!

Believing is seeing—because I believe, now I can see; I see!

Text: Mary Dorn Lippert

Hymn of the Day

O Sons and Daughters of the King
Christian Worship 456

Sermon

Revelation 1:4-18

Fear Not!

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

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

The minister says the Prayer of the Church.

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. To submit your offering electronically or to fill out an online Connection Card, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Hymn

These Things Did Thomas Count as Real
Christian Worship 468

Please stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus manages his kingdom in the interest of the gospel so that many may be saved. In love he sent Pastor Kyle Bitter to serve among us for a time, and through his ministry we have been richly blessed. As we prayed for, supported, and encouraged Pastor Bitter while he was among us, may we do the same when God, according to his gracious will, sends us another pastor to serve our congregation. The Bible encourages all Christians: "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you."

May we continue to devote ourselves to the faithful use of God's Word and sacraments and to all the tasks we have taken on to nourish one another and reach out to the lost. May the Lord bless us and keep us in his care.

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful and gracious Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have given us through the ministry of your servant, Pastor Kyle Bitter. Pour out your grace on him in his new field of service and grant him patience, understanding, zeal, and faithfulness. Support and strengthen him, so that through the gospel your holy church may grow and prosper. Bless our congregation and continue to protect, enrich, and guide us through your Word so that we may live lives worthy of the calling we have received. We ask all these things through your Son, Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

May the Peace of God
Christian Worship 929

Announcements

St. John's Spotlight

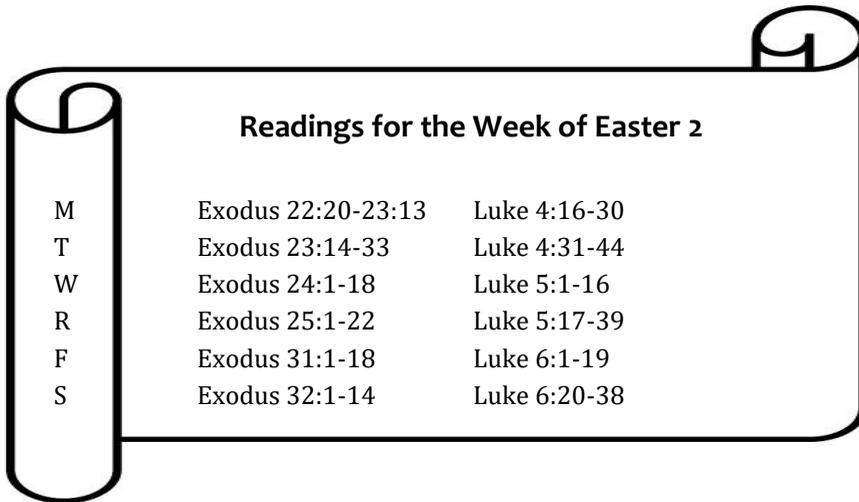
Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Readings for the Week of Easter 2		
M	Exodus 22:20-23:13	Luke 4:16-30
T	Exodus 23:14-33	Luke 4:31-44
W	Exodus 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16
R	Exodus 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
F	Exodus 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
S	Exodus 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-38

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Lector	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Musicians	Lisa Eggebrecht, organ

Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by the confirmation class in celebration of their confirmation and by the congregation in recognition of and gratitude for Pastor Bitter's nine years of service to St. John's.

In Our Prayers

- Terry Paul, hospitalized at Elmbrook and being treated for a bacterial infection and related issues.
- Morgan Markgraf and Jordon Payne, who were united in marriage on Saturday, April 23, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Watertown, WI.

Sunday Bible Study

A new Sunday morning Bible study begins this Sunday, April 24, at 9:15 a.m.

The Book of Daniel

Taught by Rev. Dr. John Lawrenz in the Fellowship Hall

Every Sunday school child knows about Daniel in the lion's den and the three men in the fiery furnace. Adults have heard about the handwriting on the wall. As dear as these stories are, they are also part of a bigger message from God. What is a believer to think when the world around turns hostile, even deadly? Why does it appear that worldly powers are winning and that God's people are losing? Daniel's life, dreams, and visions are part of God's answer. The battle between those who are on God's side and those who oppose him is long. The outcome, however, is sure: God wins, the forces of darkness lose, and Daniel's longed-for Messiah is only "seventy sevens" away. Daniel, a book of twelve chapters (half in Hebrew and half in the universal language of Babylon and Persia) is the prophet of hope that closes the Hebrew Old Testament.

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
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Pastor Eric Schroeder
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Pastor Kyle Bitter
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Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
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