



The Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

8:00 a.m.



Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe.

John 20:29b

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

✠ Opening Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Hymn of Praise:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are 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 – 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. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 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; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"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. 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. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16

1 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."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *

upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods * shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in
hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; * in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

✠The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were 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 his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠ **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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: In joy and hope, let us pray to the Risen Lord for the Church and the world.

Intercessor: For the Universal Church, its members, and its mission: that our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, and make us bold witnesses to the Good News we proclaim, let us pray. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all the nations of the earth and their leaders, and for this nation in particular: that the God who shows no partiality may guide us in the ways of justice and peace, and make us signs of hope in a wounded world, let us pray. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Middle East, for Ukraine, and for all places torn by war: that the One who rolled away the stone may also roll away every wall of hatred and division, and bring forth reconciliation and new life, let us pray. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer and those in any trouble — especially Pauline, Jeannette, Lianne, Stacy, Bill, Jack, Jackie, Judy, Noah, Liz, Karen, Scott, Jeanne M., Mary, Steve, Betsy, Rick,

Debbie S. Darrell, Reed — that they may be upheld by your healing presence and delivered from their distress, let us pray. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Michele, Beverly and all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries: that they may be renewed in joy and strengthened in love throughout this Easter season, let us pray. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the departed: that, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, they may share fully in the victory of the risen Christ, let us pray. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.

The Celebration of the Holy Communion



✠ At the Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may

be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

✠ **Post Communion Prayer: Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: With whom will you share this communion? *Lay Eucharistic Visitor answers.*

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Solemn Blessing of Easter: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing: May the Risen Lord, who reveals himself in the breaking of the bread, make himself known to you and empower you to testify to his Resurrection in word and in deed. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

✠ **The Dismissal:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Worship Assistants	April 12	April 19
Usher	Roberta Wilhelm	Roberta Wilhelm
Lector	David Kreider	Mary Lou Berg
Acolyte	Beverly Baker	Beverly Baker

April Altar Guild: Susan Considine, Debbie Linard, Liz Lowe

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Tom and Sharon Schwartz, in celebration of their daughter-in-law's birthday.

Attendance

April 2: Maundy Thursday: In-person - 78 YouTube - 3 Facebook - 2 Total: 83

Attendance April 3: Good Friday: In-person - 40 YouTube - 0 Facebook - 0 Total: 40

Attendance April 5: Easter Sunday

8:00 am - 51 10:15 am In-person - 103 YouTube - 2 Facebook - 5 Total: 161

Readings for Next Sunday: The Third Sunday of Easter - A

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35