

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Second Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.

Opening Hymn #463 - *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia*

Confession and Absolution Page 151

Service of the Word

Introit Page 152

Ps. 105; 1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2: 2-3

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name; *
make known his deeds among the | peoples!

Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him; *
tell of all his | wondrous works!

Glory in his | holy name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD | and his strength; *
seek his presence con- | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | he has done, *
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered.

He remembers his covenant for- | ever, *
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast) Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

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.

Old Testament Reading Page 156

Acts 5:29-42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Gradual Page 156

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands
he has put all things under his feet

Epistle Reading Page 156

1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if

necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 156

Holy Gospel Page 157

John 20:19–31

¹⁹On 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.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.” ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.” ²⁶Eight 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but 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.

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #471 - *O Sons and Daughters of the King*

The Sermon **Test Results Equals Praise** ~ *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Introduction

This morning we continue _____.
 We now worship on _____.

God Is Blessed

God is blessed because _____.
 This past Sunday we celebrated _____.
 Not only has God _____.

Times of Trial

The Lord may allow _____.

The reason the Lord may allow _____.

The desired outcome _____.

Ultimately the desired outcome _____.

What Does This Mean?

It means that we may face _____.

We cannot face _____.

He has already _____.

How Is This Done?

When we face _____.

First, _____.

Or God may _____.

Or God may _____.

This morning _____.

Other Notes or Questions for the Pastor:

Creed Page 158

Prayer of the Church & Offering Page 159

Offertory Page 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 160

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus and Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Our Lord Page 162

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164

Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #487 - *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*
 #461 - *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*
 #484 - *Make Songs of Joy*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) Page 164

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction Page 165/66

Closing Hymn #818 - *In Thee Is Gladness*