

# Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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## Second Sunday of Easter ~ April 27, 2025

*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 ..... #646 - *Church of God, Fleet and Glorious*  
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 154

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.

First Reading ..... Page 156

*Acts 5:12-32*

<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.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. <sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

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 un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading ..... Page 156

*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.

**Choral Anthem**

Lent Verse (Return to the Lord) ..... Page 157  
 Holy Gospel ..... Page 157

*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.

**Children's Message**

Hymn of the Day ..... #471 - *O Sons and Daughters of the King*  
 The Sermon ..... I Am the Living One ~ Revelation 1:4-18

*Miss a sermon visit Pastor Bogs' blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

**Introduction**

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
John's Words of Doxology and Greeting  
 The number seven \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 John begins with \_\_\_\_\_ .

John speaks of God the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 John speaks of God the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Jesus' Words of Greeting and John's Description  
 Jesus is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Jesus is the one who is coming to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Jesus says, "I am the . . . \_\_\_\_\_ ."  
 The word "suffering" \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The seven lamp stands \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 John describes God as \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Out of His mouth \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Jesus describes Himself as \_\_\_\_\_ .  
What Does This Mean?

For those who knock at your door:  
 Rev. 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Rev. 21:5-7 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Rev. 22:13 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Rev. 1:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The book of Revelation is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 The book of Revelation reminds us \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Finally, the book of Revelation reminds us \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 John reminds us \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Offertory ..... Page 159  
 Offering & Prayer Of The Church ..... 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 (Holy, Holy, Holy) ..... Page 161  
 Lord's Prayer and The Words of Our Lord ..... Page 162  
 Pax Domini & Agnus Dei ..... Page 163  
 Distribution ..... Page 164  
*Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible.*

Distribution Hymns ..... #512 - *At the Name of Jesus*  
 #534 - *Lord, Enthroned in Heav'nly Splendor*  
 #513 - *The Clouds of Judgement Gather*  
 Post-Communion Canticle (Nunc Dimittis) ..... Page 165  
 Post-Communion Collect and Benediction ..... Page 166  
 Closing Hymn ..... #532 - *The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns*