

Christ United

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025



Welcome!

(Stand)

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: I will arise and go to my father and say,

C: **I have sinned against heaven and before you.**
(Luke 15:18)

P: Our mission statement guides us so that:

C: **we welcome all people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.**

A: In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

Opening Song (Stand)

Prayer of the Day:

P: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

A: **First Reading: Acts 5:27–32 (Sit)**

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A: **Psalm 118:14–29**

A: **The Second Bible Reading: Revelation 1:4–8**

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: **Holy Gospel: John 20:19–31 (Stand)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The Gospel lesson is read

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Kids Time and the Sermon (Sit)

Song of the Day (stand)

Apostles' Creed (stand)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

P: Oh God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbors. As his disciples in this age, we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe in which we are privileged to live and our neighbors with whom we share it.

A: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

P: Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. **C: Amen.**

The Peace is shared at this time

P: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C: And also with you.

People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Offering –

April Noisy Offerings to: Autism Alliance of Michigan (Stand)

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this meal: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

C: **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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit) *The Bread is broken*

P: All who are hungry and thirsty, come. The table is ready.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.

(Stand)

P Let us pray.

C **Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen**

The Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Song (stand)

Announcements

Faith Word for the Week

Last week's word Tomb

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

A: And Next Week

C: **Bring a Friend!**

P: Presiding Minister

A: Assisting Minister

C: Congregation