

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 12 & 15, 2026

As We Gather

Today we begin a new message series called “Faith That Honors God.” As we celebrate nearly 150 years of God’s blessings here at Zion, we ask an important question: What kind of church pleases God? Today we begin with the first answer: A reverent church. A reverent church fears, loves, and trusts in God above all things. It takes God’s Word seriously, lives in repentance and faith, and seeks to honor God not to earn His love, but because He has already loved us in Christ. Today we ask God to shape us into that kind of church for the sake of the generations that will come after us.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

HYMN Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (LSB 465)
sts. 1, 4

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b; Psalm 145:1, 5, 6b*

P Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
C **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.
C **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.**

Confession and Absolution *Micah 6:6–8*

P Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.

C **"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?**

I "Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

II "Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

C **"Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"**

P He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

C **Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.**

P God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit *Psalm 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3*

P Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

C **Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;**
make known His deeds among the peoples!

P Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works!

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

P Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!

C **Remember the wondrous works that He has done,**
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered.

He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Kyrie

LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, we have celebrated the mystery of our Lord's resurrection from the dead. Help us to show the power of His resurrection in all that we say and do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading *Acts 4:32–35*

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 John 1:1—2:2*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *John 20:19–31*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 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."

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." 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." 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 believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (LSB 411)

Series: Faith that Honors God

Sermon: Faith That Reveres God *John 20:19–31*

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 (Hear our prayer)

P ... Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Offering In the Cross of Christ I Glory (LSB 427) *sts. 1, 3–4*

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872
Text: Public domain



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 208-212 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 208*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 208*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

Distribution Hymns

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (LSB 457)
Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven (LSB 477)
He's Risen, He's Risen (LSB 480)
The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (LSB 464)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✢ forgiven you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Benediction

Closing Hymn I Know That My Redeemer Lives (LSB 461)

sts. 1–2, 8

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
Copyright © 2026 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.