

*Community of Christ Lutheran Church  
Second Sunday of Easter,  
April 12, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.*



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Stephen Bond

**Musical Prelude**

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling” by John Leavitt Eric Dickey

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, retracing the mark made on us in our baptism.*

Blessed be the God who raises the dead, the risen Christ who meets us where we are, and the Spirit of Life who has claimed us forever.

**Amen**

We give you thanks, O God, for calling creation into being in the beginning, and for calling us into the family of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**We are your Easter people.**

We give you thanks, Lord Jesus, for finding us when we are overcome by fear and distraught by the turbulent world around us and giving us the peace of your presence.

**We are your Easter people.**

We give you thanks, Holy Spirit, for stirring up among us hope and courage to be witnesses in the world, embodying the way of Christ.

**We are your Easter people.**

As you first made us your own through our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection, so now remind us who and Whose we are by your grace as we come into your presence.

**Amen**

**Hymn**

“The Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

**ELW 384**

**Greeting**

**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.**

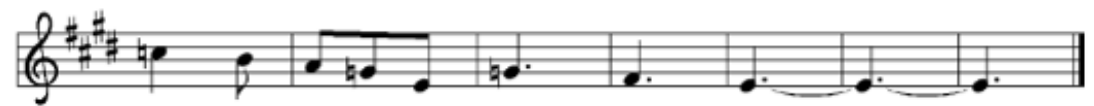
*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



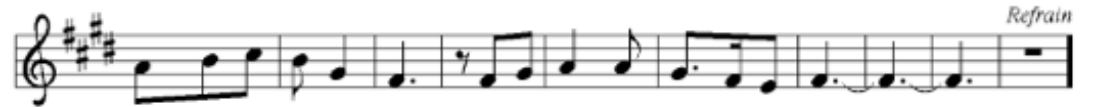
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*

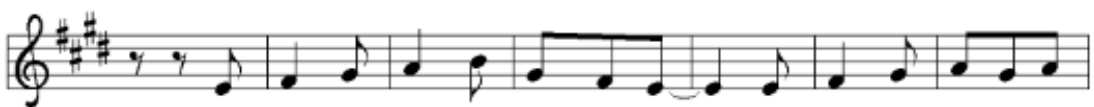


2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

*Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



### Prayer of the Day

**P** Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### Childrens Sermon

#### Anthem

"Keeping the Scars"

### THE READINGS

#### The First Reading Acts 2:14a, 22-32

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

<sup>22</sup> “Fellow 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 <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> 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;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “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. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of

the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup> “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

**L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!**

## The Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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,

<sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!**

*Congregation:*



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

## **The Holy Gospel John 20:19-31**

**P** The Holy Gospel according.... **C** **Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> 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 any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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.”

<sup>26</sup> 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.” <sup>27</sup> 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.” <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 come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord! **C** **Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

*“Cemetery Scuff-marks and Scars”*

*Pastor Steve Bond*

**Hymn**

“We Walk by Faith”

**ELW 635**

**The Nicene Creed**

**C** 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

### WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, *especially* Tom Jennings, Larry Battles, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Tom Druschel, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jeff Bucher, Albert Preston, Pastor Ray Gottschling, Jim Gebhart, Morgan & unborn baby, Matt, BethaLynn Mbaya, Judy Kathleen, Mya Chapp, Betty Ray, David Ray, Paul Ayres, Ryan Dunn, Robbert Gillies, Micaiah Snyder,

**Baby Elliot, Greg Ganalli, Nate Yokum, Carol Tomlin, Vicki Masterson, David Atkinson, Maurice Atkinson, Karen Meyer, Mike, Deanna Cedargren, Kori, Rich Rison, the family of Connie Baker, Claudia Koperski...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**P** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### **THE MEAL**

*We practice open communion, which means all baptized believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament. However, if you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate by crossing your arms. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it and gluten-free wafers if needed. Ushers will dismiss you by row.*

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**  
*Share an expression of peace with your neighbor please.*

**Our Tithes and Offerings** *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

#### **Offertory**

#### **Offering Prayer**

**AM** Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**



# HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## The Words of Institution

*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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.*

## The Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** **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**

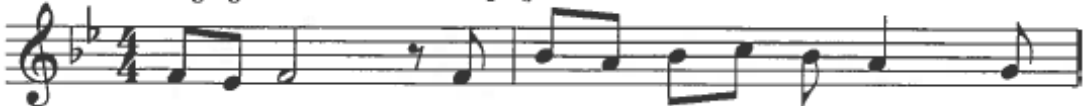
temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”


**LAMB OF GOD**

*Congregation:*                      *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God,                      you take a - way the sin of                      the  
you break the chains of ha - tred                      and  
you are the way of jus - tice                      and  
you are the way of mer - cy                      and

*Congregation:*



world:                      have mer - cy on us,                      mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy                      on                      us.                      Lamb of God,                      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of                      the world:                      grant us peace,



grant us peace,                      grant us                      peace.

“Be Not Afraid”  
(Sung 4x)

ELW 469

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

### **Prayer at the Sending of Communion**

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

### ***Milestones & Announcements:***

#### **The Blessing**

**P** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

**ELW 535**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**AM** And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

## *“Making Jesus Known”*

**Welcome to Community of Christ!** We welcome YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at **8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.** in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you, and as always, BRING A FRIEND!!!!

### **Adult Forum Explores Luther’s Small Catechism, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

We are continuing our Adult Forum, inviting EVERYBODY to catechism! We’re inviting all who would like to join us to explore the essentials of the faith as summarized in Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. We’ll explore the meaning in our lives of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, The Lord’s Supper, and the Christian Life, using the insights of Luther’s own “handbook for the faith” called the Small Catechism. Whether you first learned these things long ago in a confirmation class or you have never had a chance to study the catechism, this is a great chance to explore some of the Big Ideas of the Christian faith and get at why it all matters, and what it all means. Join us between services, continuing this spring in the Bible study/council room!

**Thursday Bible Study Opens Up the Book of Acts** Join us for our current series in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study, as we take a deep dive into the New Testament book of Acts to learn the story of the early church and how the band of rag-tag fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee grew into a movement that reached outward to the very heart of the Roman Empire and became a “found family” of Jewish and Gentile people, rich and poor, enslaved and free, women and men, and lived through the growing pains of that outreach to change the world. Join us weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room as we work through the book of Acts and let it spark our own ways of living out our faith and sharing the good news of Jesus in the world around us. Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page) each week, so that you can know what we’ll be looking at each week in case you miss a week, want to join in, or to share with a friend!

**Toledo School for the Arts Vocal Music Concert and Silent Auction—April 26 at 3:00 p.m.** The Concert Committee is excited to announce that later this month, we’ll be hosting a concert featuring some of Toledo’s top jazz vocalists, including Ramona Collins, Kim Buehler, and Lori Lefevre, and vocal students from Toledo School for the Arts, coming up on April 26 at 3:00 p.m. You can now see and bid on items in a

silent auction of prizes and items, from which proceeds will be split between Community of Christ's ministries beyond our doors and TSA's "Songs for our Sister" Vocal Jazz Scholarship Fund to help other students develop their talent. The concert will be free with the invitation to give a free will offering. PLUS, you can now bid on items up to the date of the concert on April 26!!

**Social Action Collection for Genacross Youth Homes LAST DAY** to collect items needed for the group youth homes for at-risk children and youth in our area that are managed by Genacross Lutheran Services in northwestern Ohio. Markers, crayons, colored pencils (any sizes and amounts)

- Coloring books and activity books (especially faith-themed are welcome)
- Basketballs, footballs, frisbees

Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of kids who could really use some signs of love and care at this time in their lives.

**Church Breakfast 4/26/26** Pancakes, egg bakes, and donuts, oh my! Bring your friends and your appetites as the Outreach Committee, with help from our friends on Church Council, will be hosting a breakfast between services on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Funds raised in the free-will offering will be used to support the AW Neighborhood Bridges Backpack program, which provides meals to local students on the weekends.

**April Ladies Lunch** Join us at Firepit Grill, 7723 Airport Hwy, Holland, OH 43528, on April 24th. We will meet @ 11:30. Please sign up at the kiosk so we can make reservations! If you have any questions, contact **Becky King at 419-349-7319**. All ladies welcome & bring a friend! 🌸 🍷

**New "Go Team Jesus" Stickers to Help Support Salem!** Check out our new foam-finger inspired stickers that say, "Go Team Jesus!" in several different colors, on the table in the Gathering Space! We'd invite you to get one or more, which are perfect for putting on your laptop, travel mug, phone case, notebook, or car bumper, and we'd invite your donations of \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00, which we'll use to help support our mission partnerships with Salem Lutheran Church in the north end of Toledo. Get yours today!

**Adult Progressive Dinner April 25th, 5:30 p.m.** Come join us when we travel to three different homes. Everyone will bring a dish to share and their beverage of choice. We will start out with heavy hors d'oeuvres (ex: finger food, sliders) then

head to another home for salads, then end the night at the last house, dessert. Sign up at the kiosk and find out where we are starting and let us know what you would like to bring. For questions, call Susan Nofzinger at 419 654-9227.

**Monthly Sing-a-Long at Blue Creek!** Please join us on Tuesday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. to share the joy of singing with the residents of Blue Creek! All are invited; all you need to do is show up!!! Hope to see you there 🎵 🎤

**Dear Community of Christ Members,**

THANK YOU for your donations over the winter.

Collections for Bridge of Hope for migrant workers will begin again!

Items that are needed are:

- \*empty egg cartons
- \*plastic laundry baskets
- \*deodorant
- \*detergent
- \*small cooler/lunch box
- \*new pillows
- \*can openers
- \*thinner long sleeve shirts
- \*reusable water bottles
- \*new or gently used pillowcases
- \*new or gently used towels & washcloths
- \*new or gently used drink jugs
- \*hats/neck covers, socks, work gloves & sunglasses
- \*dry beans
- \*dry rice
- \*sunscreen
- \*toilet paper
- \*paper towels
- \*toothbrushes
- \*toothpaste
- \*bath soap

Please place any donations in the wicker basket in the hall off the Gathering space throughout spring, summer, and fall.

**It's a Baby Shower!!!** Our friends at Salem in the North End of Toledo are throwing a baby shower, and we are invited to help! The Norf-End Neighbors organization, in collaboration with Salem Lutheran and several other mission partners, including Community of Christ, are hoping to provide some important baby needs for a few chosen mothers who can use these items for their little ones. They are hoping to present these gifts to the moms by Mother's Day in May, so this April, we are invited to help by donating needed items. Here's how YOU can be a part of it: in the Gathering Space starting THIS SUNDAY, you can take a tag from the hanging mobile display with an item or two that you are willing to purchase and bring here to the "baby bed" collection point beneath the mobile. Bring items by April 26, so that

we can get them to Salem in time. Some items are inexpensive and simple to get, and others are more costly--but if you would rather help by making a partial monetary donation that can cover a portion of one of the more expensive needed items (like a car seat), you can also take one of the tags for a monetary donation. Take a tag, bring it back with the item, and we'll transport it all to Salem in time for the big event. Thanks so much for your generosity, care, and support for mothers and babies in the North End of Toledo! This is a great way to *make Jesus known!*



**Altar Flowers given by Michael & Cammie Abraham**  
**In celebration of Thomas' 24<sup>th</sup> Birthday!** 🎉 🎂



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	Monday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.
Christian Education	Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sing a Long @ Blue Creek	Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, April 14, 8:30 a.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.
Choir	Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thursday, April 16, 1:00 p.m.



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take

notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!