

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 189 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org or use the QR Code provided.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...

stpaulsyork.org

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors.

The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE		Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Bread Bakers			Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean -up
1	8:00 AM	Bob Reed		Dale Smith			Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Kirsten & Sammy Barnes
4/27		Tristan Ericson	. ,	Dan Garber		,	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Larry & Janet Moore

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 27, 2025 Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises

Emma Lou Diemer

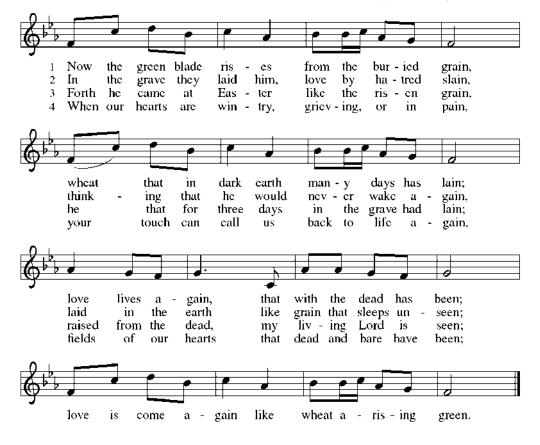
Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

10:30 AM SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (insert)

ENTRANCE HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379)



APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . . Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 150:1-6 The organ introduces the tone then it is sung by Cantor/**Congregation** unaccompanied.



- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise God in his | holy temple;* praise him in the firmament | of his power.
- ² Praise him for his | mighty acts;* praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.
- ³ Praise him with the blast | of the ram's horn;* praise him with | lyre and harp.
- ⁴ Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;* praise him with | strings and pipe.
- ⁵ Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;* praise him with loud- | clanging cymbals.
- ⁶ Let everything | that has breath* praise the Lord. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL John: 20:19-31 (back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John *At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Stand

8:00 AM NICENE CREED

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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord God, inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities (current issues of concern may be named). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS 8:00 AM

Chancel Choir 10:30 AM

Christ is Risen Peace Be With You He Said Samuel Scheidt Jeremy Rawson

u -

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful (ELW 182)



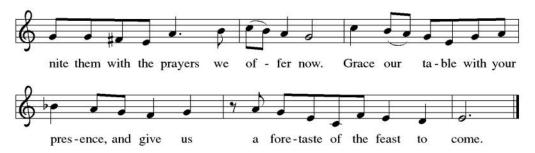


bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life.

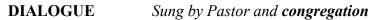
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all:

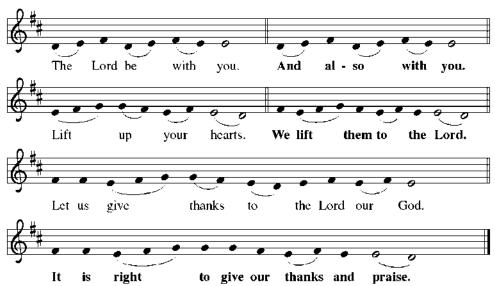


OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

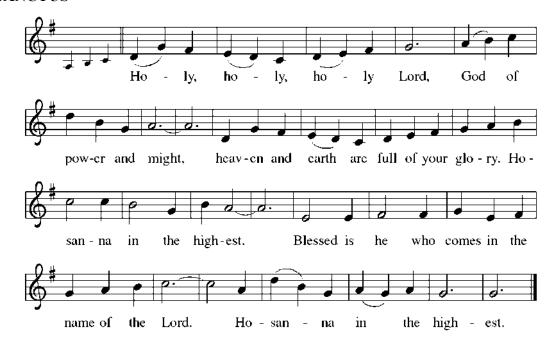
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;

you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:

the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,

the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,

and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,

who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,

his ascension to the seat of power,

and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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,

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

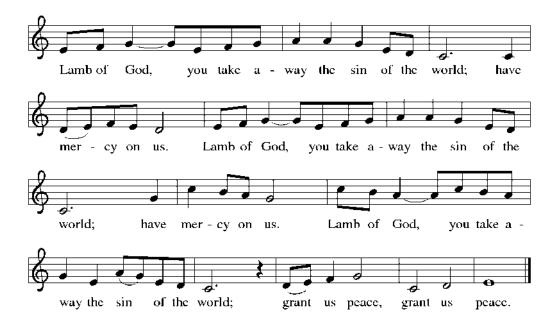
FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI



Sit

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist. We receive communion by intinction today. *Procedure for receiving Communion*:

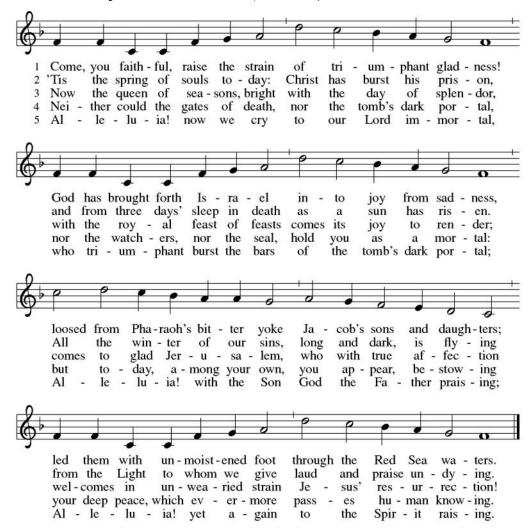
- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
- 6.Return to your pew using the side aisle

COMMUNION CANTICLE

This is the Feast



Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (ELW 363)



POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. Amen

HYMN With High Delight Let Us Unite (ELW 368)



DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Go in peace. Serve the Lord. He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

Emma Lou Diemer



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in memory of my parents, Bob and Mary Reifsteck by Cheryl Reifsteck And in loving memory of Linda Winey by Dave, Bret and Mike Winey

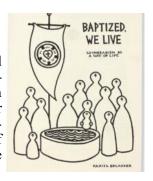
This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon-Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Friday 8:00—11:30 AM

Sunday, Ap	pril 27	Thursday, May 1		
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	10:00 AM	Preschool with Pastor	
9:15 AM	Adult Education—Christ Hall	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	
10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist—Live Stream-Baptism	Sunday, M	ay 4	
6:30 PM	AA Meeting—Community Rm	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	
Monday, A	pril 28	9:15 AM	Adult Education—Christ Hall	
7:00PM	Mutual Ministry Mtg	10:10 AM	Special Congregational Meeting	
Tuesday, A	April 29	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist—Life Stream	
9:30 AM	NO Pantry	3:00 PM	Matinee Music Club Recital	
Wednesda	y April 30	6:30 PM	AA Meeting—Community Rm	
10:00 AM	Preschool with Pastor			
10:30 AM	Bible Study			

Baptized We Live—Lutheranism as a Way of Life Continuing in May, 9:15 AM

During the season of Easter Pastor Reep will lead a class entitled "Lutheranism as a Way of Life". The class serves as a refresher for Lutheran Christians. The classes will be held in Christ Hall at 9:15 AM. In addition, those wishing to unite with St. Paul's Lutheran Church or adults desiring to be Baptized will do so at the combined 9:15 AM liturgy on Pentecost, June 8. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's Church or desire to be Baptized please notify the church office or speak with Pastor Reep.



The schedule of discussion topics follows:

May 4 A Way of Hearing May 11 A Way of Teaching May 18 A Way of Following

Mother's Day Bake Sale—Sunday May 11 Proceeds Benefit our sister congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church, Tanzania

St. Paul's own Mpuguso Committee is sponsoring a Mother's Day Bake Sale, May 11, to help the Mpuguso Lutheran Congregation complete the lower level of their church building. This part of their building project is not the cool neat stuff of chancels and nave, windows



and doors, appointments and instruments. This part includes the practical things like restrooms and office for pastor and secretary and meeting room for small groups. If you would like to help with the bake sale; bake, set up, oversee the sale, clean up, or donate financially please contact any member of the team; Emily Reep, Tina Llorente, Jaclyn Kinkella, Maggie Dickerson or Martina Uffelman. Baked goods should be dropped off at the church on Saturday morning May 10 from 9:00 AM to Noon. In advance, thank you for supporting this important work.



Special Meeting of the Congregation Sunday May 4, 2025, at 10:10 AM Springettsbury Ave. Entrance Doors/windows

The Congregation Council is calling a special meeting of the congregation on **Sunday May 4, 2025, at 10:10 AM** to act on the proposal recommended by the Property Committee. The meeting will

be held in Christ Hall. The proposal is to replace the Springettsbury entry doors and glass surround with new six-foot-wide doors with insulated glass which would maintain the existing aesthetics of the building. The replacement doors would permit improved entry for those with walkers, wheelchairs, deliveries, and for caskets at funerals. The new entry will be equipped with a security feature to aid with safety protocol associated with weekday operations, especially as it relates to our preschool. The Finance Committee recommends funding the \$36,800 expense through designated gifts donated in honor or in memory for a two-month period. Any remaining balance would come from the Investment Account at Fulton Bank. Questions in advance of the meeting should be directed to Council President, Keith Kates or Property Chairperson, Kem Vaught.

Summer Worship Schedule to Begin May 25, 2025 (Memorial Day Weekend) Combined Liturgy 9:15 AM

The summer worship schedule begins on Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday May 27, with one liturgy at 9:15 AM. Combined Summer Worship has proven to improve our relationships within the congregation and help us welcome new persons who visit and those seeking information about uniting with St. Paul's faith com-



munity. The Fellowship Committee is planning for a time of fellowship following each liturgy. They are soliciting help to provide baked goods, fruit and other items needed for refreshments. A sign-up sheet is available in the Good Shepherd Room. Consider now what week works better for your summer plans and commit to help. Another benefit with one combined liturgy is the ease of scheduling servers, altar guild, bread bakers, ushers, and lectors. The Worship Committee has planned liturgies appropriate for the season. This summer there are two Feast Days: Pentecost (June 8) and The Holy Trinity (June 15) and there are two Saint's Days: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles (June 29) and St. Bartholomew Apostle (August 24). On those days the liturgy will be a bit fuller reflecting the significance of the day and how it impacts our Christian faith and witness. Please mark your calendar and adjust your Sunday household schedule so that you remain active in our community of faith.

There are obstacles with most every aspect of life. It is that way with Christian faith too. There are obstacles to believing. We call them doubts.

Doubts are age old. They go along with being a Christian. Everybody has them. You may think that you are alone, but you are not. Fredrick Buechner writes "If you don't have any doubts you are either kidding yourself, or asleep." Martin Luther writes "When you have doubts, get yourself to the Eucharist, to the table of the Lord, to be with other Christians in the gathered assembly, there faith is restored in the presence of your brothers and sisters and in the presence of Christ in the sacrament." This morning in the Gospel narrative it is Thomas, one of the twelve, a Disciple, who has doubts about the Resurrected Lord.

At first I think that Thomas may have doubts because of those who are relaying to him their encounter with the risen Christ. Not certain of the relationship, not given much biblical evidence for how Thomas interacts with the others, perhaps he is being cautious. If along the way trust has been compromised, then an obstacle, we will call it doubt, sets in and changes a relationship; changes what you will believe and from whom.

When George was in the second grade, his older brothers got up one morning and told him it was time to get ready for Sunday school and church. They were going to help their mom get breakfast ready while he was to get cleaned up and dressed ready to go. George dutifully went to the bathroom, washed his face, brushed his teeth and then headed upstairs to get ready. George grew up in the days when everyone put on their Sunday best to go to church. George put on his best shirt and even struggled to button the top button so that he could affix his clip on neck tie. When George came down for breakfast he was surprised that his brothers were still in pajamas and that his mom was wearing regular clothes. Then his brothers erupted into laughter. "Don't you know" they shouted "it's Saturday!" After that, George often had doubts when his older brothers told him things. He doubted because of that experience.

Not knowing Thomas' relationship to the other disciples I can grasp why there may have been doubt. So when the disciples tell Thomas about being in the room with closed doors, when they tell him that Jesus came and spoke peace to them, and that Jesus showed them his hands and his side, and when they told Thomas how they had all rejoiced in the presence of the Risen One, and how he breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Spirit and that they were to forgive sins, I can grasp how it is that Thomas had doubts.

There are plenty of reasons for us to have doubts and they are not limited to the faith community: employment, relationships, government decisions, international policy, climate change and pollution of air and water. They all stir up doubts. The business sector struggles; downsize, close, or relocate. Escalating insurance costs associated with auto insurance, home and healthcare bring doubts "is coverage sustainable?" Growing strains on relationships and friends bring doubts to questions surrounding dating, marriage, and fami-

ly. The current national trends show young adults postponing marriage by nearly a decade from that of the previous generation. That slows things like homeownership, starting families, establishing independence. The economic forecasters raise new concerns over the national deficit, the international scene continues to be hostile, wars rage on. Citizens are fleeing countries of origin seeking refuge from the mounting chaos of corruption, poverty, or religious persecution. News outlets highlight the polarizing doubts of our own nation. And in the Church, Catholics and Protestants alike, voice doubt over changing doctrines, morals, ethics and leadership decisions. What decisions about life in the church will guide the election of a new Pope in the Roman Catholic Church, or in our Lower Susquehanna Synod with the election of a bishop in June, or the ELCA with its looming election of Churchwide Bishop in late summer? I would like to think that in Christ all of these doubts should vanish, but they are all part of our human existence, our human sinfulness, and the need we have of a Savior.

There is good reason behind Jesus breathing his Holy Spirit on the disciples and telling them that just as the Father sent him to serve and suffer and give himself for the life of the world that they are to do the same. They are to make his love and hope known through announcing the forgiveness of sins. That is of course our mission too, to serve and suffer and give of ourselves for the life of the world, and all the while announcing forgiveness of sins. For where there is forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation (Small Catechism).

Jesus' presence with us this morning does not mean the absence of struggle, or the absence of strife or of pain or even of doubt, but the presence of God's steadfast love. Love made real in Christ, through his death on the cross and his victory over sin and death. We experience that love made know at the Table of the Lord, where we receive his body and blood. We experience his love made know in the words of absolution that our sins are forgiven. We experience Christ's love in the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints where hope is proclaimed and our future is sure. We experience love in the gift of the Holy Spirit, our companion, our comforter, our advocate.

Thomas, one of the twelve, a Disciple of Jesus experienced God's steadfast love behind closed doors, gathered with other believers. One week earlier, he doubted their story. What the others told him seemed to be unbelievable, and was an obstacle for him. But now, gathered with the others, Jesus comes, reveals his wounds, and his love, and now Thomas is a believer.

Doubt, struggle, suffering, pain, they are all part of the human experience. With the resurrection of Christ Jesus and the Easter message come God's steadfast love, God's good news, God's promise and God's hope for you and me and all people. We are told by John, the evangelist "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." This morning God's Word moves us from our faithless doubts to encounter the Risen One who comes and speaks peace, breathing into us the breath of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." 29But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might 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."

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

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, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

8"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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."

²⁶A 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." 27 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." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 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."

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