

The Second Sunday of Easter

Believing Thomas

04/12/2026

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

P Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

C **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

P To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: [ELW#385 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"](#)

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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.



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



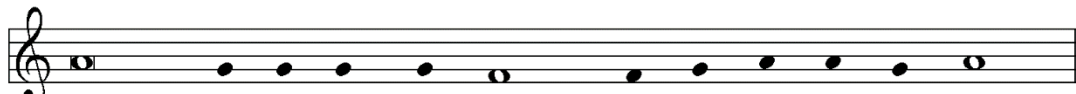
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



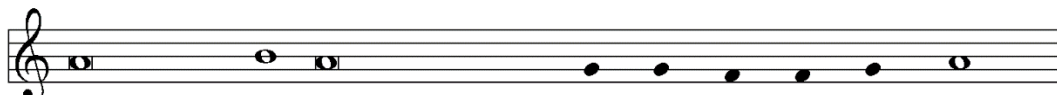
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 16

L ¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

C ²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

L ³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

C ⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

L ⁵O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

C ⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

L ⁷I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

C ⁸**I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

L ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

C ¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

L ¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,

C **and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

JOHN 20:19-31

L A reading from John: ¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

L The gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#635 "We Walk by Faith"](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

PASTOR GREG'S CONTEXT-O-METER FOR THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

**WE ARE
HERE**

Prologue: The Word Made Flesh	1:1–18
The Book of Signs: Jesus' Public Ministry	1:19-12:50
The Book of Glory: Jesus' Final Hours	13:1–20:31
Epilogue: The Risen Lord and His Church	21:1-25

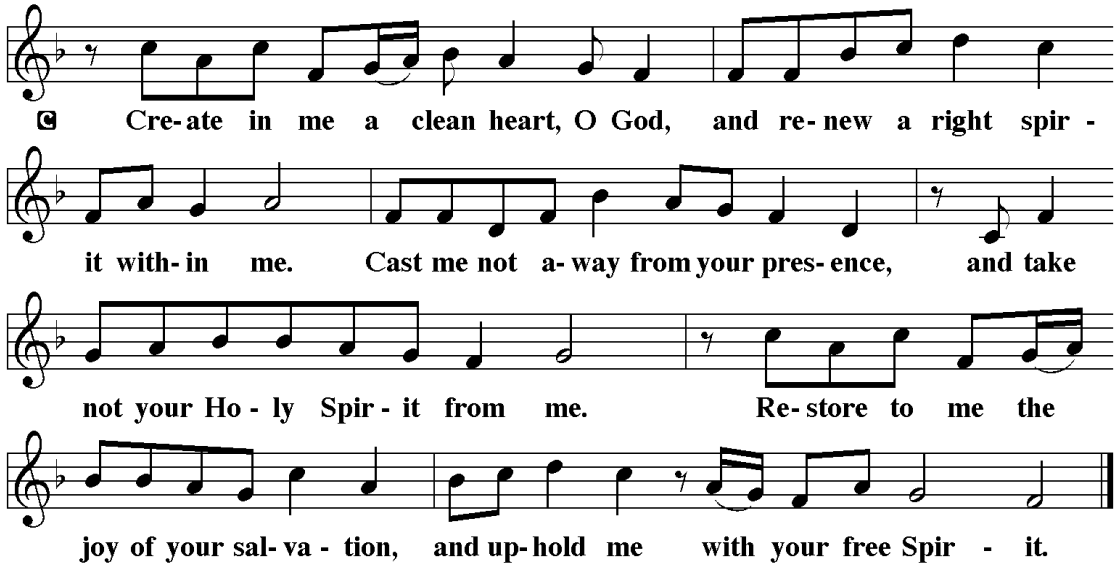
- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

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

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

- L** 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.

- L** 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,
C receive our prayer.
- L** 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,
C receive our prayer.
- L** 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,
C receive our prayer.

L Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

L 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,

C **receive our prayer.**

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...*
- *For those who serve in the armed forces, for those who are deployed, and for those who have been injured...*
- *For ceasefire in Iran...*
- *For civilians caught in the midst of war and conflict...*
- *For victims of the Grays Ferry parking garage collapse in Philadelphia, PA...*
- *For local and global elections, and peaceful transitions of leadership...*
- *For Christian unity across denominations and traditions...*
- *For safe return of the Artemis II crew...*
- *For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and for those unjustly detained...*
- *For survivors of child abuse and sexual assault, and for caregivers and advocates...*
- *For all affected by rising fuel and food costs and access...*
- *For communities affected by early heat and drought...*

L 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,

C **receive our prayer.**

L 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.

C **Amen**

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**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#369 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!"](#)

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God**

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

Announcements

- Saturday, 05/16/2026 1 pm - Memorial Service for Ann Spiegler

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Date	Day	Theme	Text	Leader(s)
April 12	Easter 2	Thomas	John 20:19-31	Julie and Dave
April 19	Easter 3	Paul's Conversion	Acts 9:1-19a	Ron
April 26	Easter 4	Paul and Silas	Acts 16:16-34	Monica
May 3	Easter 5	Paul's Sermon at Athens	Acts 17:16-31	Heidi and Bob
May 10	Easter 6	Partnership in the Gospel	Phil 1:1-18a	Julie and Dave
May 17	Easter 7	The Christ Hymn	Phil 2:1-13	Ron
May 24	Pentecost	Day of Pentecost Rejoice in the Lord	Acts 2:1-21 Phil 4:4-7	Monica

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