

**April 16, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Second Sunday in Easter, Year A**

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***St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA***

**Reverend Maggie Westaby**

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**Wausau, Wisconsin 54401**

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**Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
Second Sunday of Easter, Year A  
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**WELCOME**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**Amen.**

Let us bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us, may become visible. So that the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by God's grace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Eternal God,

**We confess to you our faults and failings. Too often, we put other things above you and turn away from your path. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may experience your love and peace, and share them with your world. Amen.**

God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ † all your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Loving God,

In a doubting world, may we find your truth. Breathe your Holy Spirit on us so that we may receive peace that lives only in you. In Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

## Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## **READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>“You that are 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 freed him from 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 16**

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

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

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

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

O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a<sup>1</sup> rich inheritance.**

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

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

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

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

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Amen.

## 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.

The Word of the Lord.

### Thanks be to God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>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.” <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, which are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

## For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

## **CREED**

**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 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

God has given us life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruits of our labor to God's ministry.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,

Receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your mission. May all creation be joined together as one, flesh, wounds, and all. May the dignity of all be recognized and may all creation thrive in your love and peace. In Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

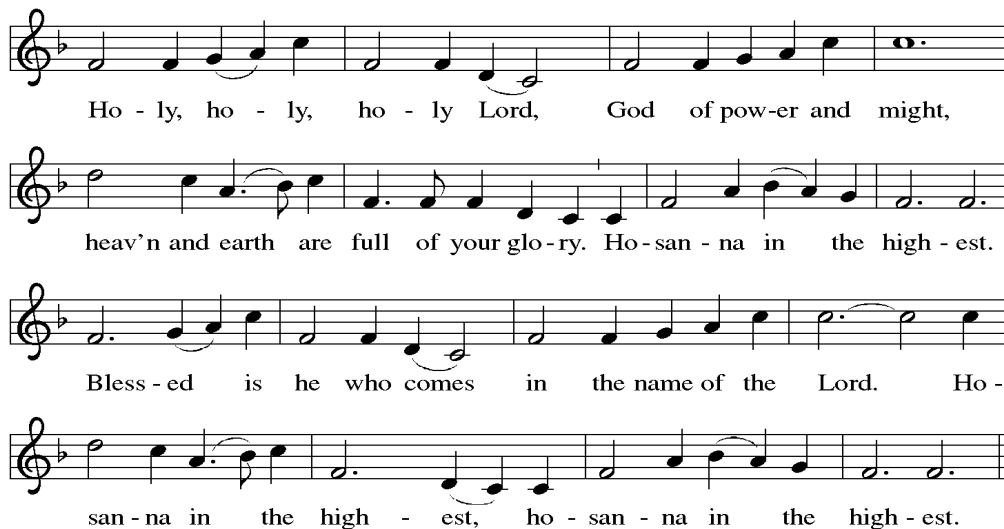
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## 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, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

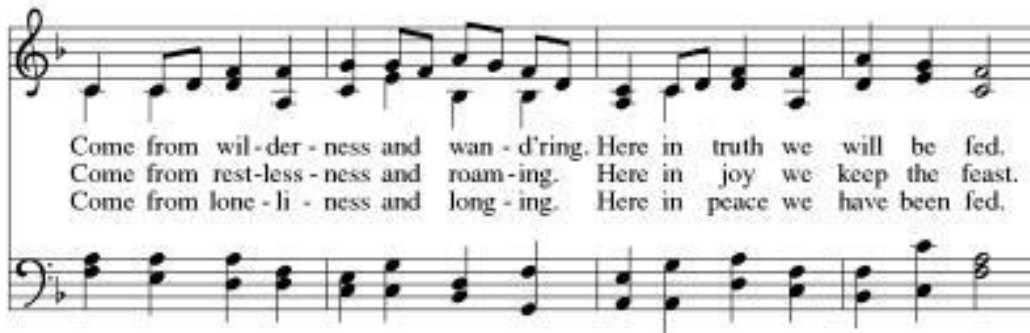
Taste and see that God is good.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

## All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993  
 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbia Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version  
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## Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more. I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; in: William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1798, alt.  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God,

In you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

May the love of the Father,

the tenderness of the Son,

and the presence of the Spirit,

gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul, this day and all days.

In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

## What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

*Refrain*

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;  
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.  
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Eliza A. Hoffman, 1839-1919  
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Welcome to all!** Happy Easter! Indeed, the season lasts 50 days. Welcome as we continue celebrating our risen Lord.

Jesus, my faith, like that of Thomas, is always tinged with some doubt. Thank you for blessing me anyway with your love and acceptance.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

**To those who are visiting:** Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

**Reminder!** If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

**Food Basket.** Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Maggie's Book Club. Monday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m.** We will be discussing *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa Terkeurst.

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

### **Coming This Week @ St. John April 16– April 22**

#### Today

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

#### April 17

Noon Newsletter Articles due to church office  
6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club

#### April 18

8:30 a.m. Quilting  
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

#### April 23

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School