

April 12, 2026  
Second Sunday of Easter



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



**Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Wisconsin Synod**  
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### **Welcome!**

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Adult Bible Class at 11:00 am.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor  
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*

### ***HE LIVES TO GIVE ME PROOF AND PEACE***

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder whether anything he said was true. Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, Thomas still had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. Today I have great comfort as someone with doubts about Christ's promises in my life. Jesus engages me with continuing assurances in Word and sacrament. I have proof. I have peace.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father,  
I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.  
In what I have done and left undone,  
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.  
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.  
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.  
I repent of them.  
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation*

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**Cleanse me from my sins.  
Release me from my guilt.  
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## **FIRST READING**

**ACTS 2:14A,22–32**

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

<sup>22</sup>“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup>David said about him: “ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup>But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 16

**Protect me, God; my trust I place Within the refuge of your grace.  
The path of life to me you show; Fullness of joy with you I know.**

<sup>1</sup>Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup>I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."

<sup>3</sup>As for the saints who are in the land,  
they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup>The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

**Protect me, God; my trust I place Within the refuge of your grace.  
The path of life to me you show; Fullness of joy with you I know.**

<sup>5</sup>Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup;  
you have made my lot secure.

<sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

<sup>7</sup>I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup>I have set the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**Protect me, God; my trust I place Within the refuge of your grace.  
The path of life to me you show; Fullness of joy with you I know.**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,

<sup>10</sup>because you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>11</sup>You have made known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

**Protect me, God; my trust I place Within the refuge of your grace.  
The path of life to me you show; Fullness of joy with you I know.**

## SECOND READING

1 PETER 1:3–9

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

JOHN 20:19–31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples 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 nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

***HYMN: O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING***

**456**

**SERMON on ACTS 2:14A,22–32**

## **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,  
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 in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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**

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

**When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.**

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

**Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.**

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

**Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.**

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

**Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.**

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

**Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ♪

*CW 167*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**♪ O Christ, Lamb of God ♪**

CW 169

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

***HYMN: AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING***

**675**

*Stand*

### **951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant**

**Lord, now you let your servant  
depart in peace according to your word.  
For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Text: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

***HYMN: I AM CONTENT! MY JESUS LIVES AGAIN***

**464**