

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

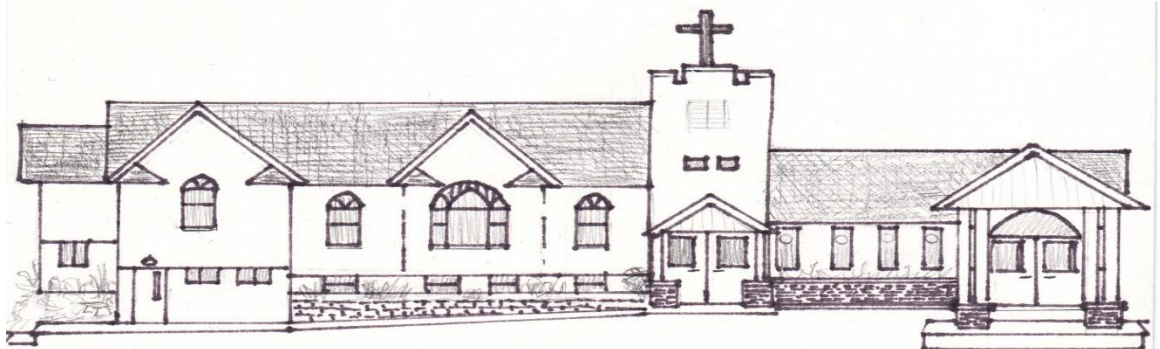
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Pastor Raymond Barclay



Sketch drawn by Alice Diver

Sunday, April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE: ORGAN / CLAVINOVA
[*] REQUESTS YOUR RISING IF COMFORTABLE
GREETINGS



***GATHERING SONG *Now the Green Blade Rises* (LBW 148)**

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
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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***GREETING (WOV p. 46)**

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.**

P The word is near you,

C **on your lips and in your heart.**

P If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

P Faith comes from what is heard,

C **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**



***SCRIPTURE SONG (WOV p. 47)**



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p. 16)**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, with joy we celebrate 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.

C **Amen**

LESSONS: LECTIONARY YEAR A LECTOR: KATHY ROSENBOHM

FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A reading from Acts.

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "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 ²³ 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.

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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;

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

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

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ “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. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

READER The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (*Ps. 16:11*)

¹ 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.”

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

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

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

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who hold my lot.

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Peter.

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³ 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 ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

READER The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 48)



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

***GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

¹⁹ 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.” 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.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ 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.” 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 that are not written in this book. ³¹ 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.**

HOMILY: “THE ‘THOMAS SYNDROME’”

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!* (LBW 147)

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
He who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
joined to him, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.
with the Lord, at his right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

***RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION (WOV p. 49)**

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

C **Amen**

***PEACE (WOV p. 50)**

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us share God's peace with one another.

***OFFERTORY (WOV p. 50)**

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

P Let us pray.

P Gracious God,

C **in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

***THE PRAYERS**

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

P 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.

P 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.

P 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.

P Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P 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.

P 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.

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.

C Amen.

A TIME SET ASIDE FOR SILENT PRAYER

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

***BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

REFLECTIONS

1. What are the number of times that the Bible records Jesus post-death appearance intended to mean? To you?
2. After you read John 16:20-22, how can you always find a new way to 'rejoice' in/over the Resurrection?
3. According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit is synonymous with not just life, but 'new life.' So, for one who believes everything that Jesus has said, what's new?

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for coming!

~ Strength & Healing Concerns~

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pam Rabe	Judy Livingston	Pat Janssen	Bill Juraco
Phyllis Fischer	Mary Lou Nannen	Judy Wyss	Virginia Mahan
Richard Sathoff	Carl Satterlee	Dave Kroepel	Linda Meyer
Grant Blaza	Doug Rabe	Alice Lopez	Marsha Shafer
Bobby Creamer	Becky Pfahl	Brenda Hyneman	Rita Scott
Karen Randle	Mason Deppermann	Travis Riekema	Julie Scott

And All Soldiers Serving Our Country



~ THANK YOU ~

Music: Marilyn Strickfaden
Reader: Kathy Rosenbohm
Greeter: Ladies'

Mary Ann Kaufman also sends her greetings and thanks for her Easter Lily, cards, and letters.

Irma Uphoff would like to thank St. Peter for her Easter Lily.

Carol Predmore wishes to thank St. Peter for the Easter Lily, she misses everyone and hopes to some day be able to visit.

~ ST. PETER HAPPENINGS



Sun. April 12th – Non-Communion Sunday

Sat. April 18th – Spring Clean-Up begins @ 8am

Sun. April 19th – Communion Sunday

Last Confirmation Class!

Tue. April 21st – Ladie's Night Out @ Gil's beginning at 5:30pm

Sun. April 26th – Communion Sunday

Bishop Busboom will be our guest Pastor

WELCA Pound Sale and General Meeting @ 3pm

Hello! Ladie's Night Out at Gil's will be Tuesday, April 21st @ 5:30pm. If possible, please call Caryn no later than April 17th so she can finalize the reservations.

Bishop Busboom's Visit – April 26th

We are pleased to announce that Bishop Busboom will be visiting our church on Sunday, April 26th. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Meet and Greet with Bishop Busboom in the Upper Room. Refreshments will be served and the bishop will be answering some question we may have.
- 10:00 a.m. - Bishop Busboom will preside over our church service that will include Holy Communion.
- 11:15 a.m. Church Council will meet briefly with Bishop Busboom in the Upper Room

Questions for Bishop Busboom

What is the one question you would like to ask Bishop Busboom? If you have that question, I'm sure others do also. During the Meet and Greet, the bishop will be glad to answer questions we have. To make the best use of our time, if you could send me your question by April 19th, I will get them to the bishop. You can give them to me at church, e-mail to Rosemaryhaynes@gmail.com or give me a call at 309-360-5174.

Thanks – Rosemary

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 12, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Be Curious

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.

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