

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**April 27, 2025, 9:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday of Easter**

In spite of all we have seen, it is often hard to hard to believe, we will Easter mystery for fifty Because it is hard to evangelist will provide celebrating Jesus' Because it is hard to will return to us again mystery of holy



heard and all we have believe. Because it is invest ourselves in the days (a week of weeks). believe, John the sign after sign victory over death. believe, the risen Jesus and again in the communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

**Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.**



**+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN      Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!      ELW 382 (vs. 1 & 4)**

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **First Reading**

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

A reading from Acts, chapter 5.

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "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." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority.

<sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Acts 5: 27-32*

## **Psalm 118**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> **The LORD is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God’s mercy endures forever.**

## **Second Reading**

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

A reading from Revelation, chapter 1.

<sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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 <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

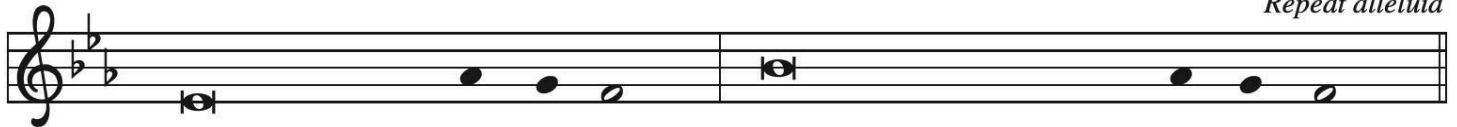
*Revelation 1:4-8*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(all sing)*



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



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

### **Gospel**

*The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."*

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 were locked where the disciples were, 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 that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**  
**(REPEAT ACCLAMATION)**

*John 20: 19-31*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Please have an adult accompany children 3 yrs. old and younger.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**We Walk By Faith**

**ELW 635**

## **L: APOSTLES' CREED**

*Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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.**

## **L: 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.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. 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.**

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## +MEAL+

*God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.



## OFFERTORY

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**

**ELW 860**

## L: OFFERING PRAYER

*For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.*

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.**

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we 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.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

*(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)*

## L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

### +SENDING+

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## REMINDERS

*(If you are giving a reminder, come to the lectern as the altar is cleared).*

## BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN      Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds      (vs. 1 & 3)**  
**ELW 367**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News!  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*All are welcome to refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following the service.*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 27, 2025**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion

**Guest Pianist:** Carol Yachanin

**Assisting Minister:** Terry Gustafson

**Lector:** Matt Girard

**Tech Team:** Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

**Ushers:** Tina Beaudoin, Gerry Beaudoin, Carol Emond

**Altar Guild:** Edie Valencis

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, April 27, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

### **Monday, April 28, 2025**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Thursday, May 1, 2025**

6:00 p.m. Parish Life Meeting (Parish Life Room)

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

### **Saturday, May 3, 2025**

9:00 a.m. Spring Clean Up Day (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

10:00 a.m. Women's Circle (Youth Room)

1:00 p.m. MFN Board Meeting (Youth Room)

### **Sunday, May 4, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

7:00 p.m. Elisabeth Von Trapp Concert

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT**

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Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Deacon Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music