



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*We Have a Meaningful Mission*

April 27, 2025





4651 Kernan Blvd S,  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
(904) 642-8900

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Bible Class and  
Sunday School  
10:30am Worship with  
Livestream

[victorylutheran.org](http://victorylutheran.org)



*Find us on Facebook,  
Instagram, and YouTube!*



*Victory is affiliated with the  
Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod.*

# Welcome to Victory!

- Thank you for choosing to worship the Triune God with us! May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we join together in worship.
- We prepare for worship by quietly meditating on the theme for the day and respectfully listening to the music chosen and prepared by our musicians.
- If you are looking for a church home, we would be thrilled to serve your spiritual needs. Our name comes from 1 Corinthians 15:57: **"Thanks be to God! He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ!"**
- Our mission as a Christian congregation is to: "Win souls for Christ and coach Christians for life."
- Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder to give us a record of your visit, and so we can properly thank you for joining us!
- Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both the women's and men's restrooms.
- A Quiet Room for children who need a quiet moment with a caretaker is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

## Today's Worship: We Have a Meaningful Mission

If Jesus remained dead, all he would provide is an example of a beautiful life. Therefore, if Jesus remained dead, the mission of his followers would simply be to share advice. "Here is how Jesus would want us to love one another. Or "Jesus would want us to think about money like this." Or "This is how Jesus would pray." But because he lives, his followers now have a meaningful mission. It is not to share advice, but to testify to what we have seen and know to be true. Christ has risen! Thus, Jesus is not a standard, but our Savior. Jesus is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life. His resurrection to glory will be the resurrection of all who put their faith in him. Sharing that good news—that's our mission.

The Sunday after Easter can seem like a bit of a letdown. Chances are the church isn't quite as full. There might not be a choir or special instruments to go along with our hymns. Even the lilies have begun to wilt. It might feel like the fun is all over. Wrong! The adventure has just begun. Because he lives! Therefore, we have a meaningful mission. Let us open our eyes to the privilege and the opportunity.

## Easter Season Focus: Because He Lives

It is easy to become so engrossed in the details of historical events—who, when, where—that we miss their significance. For example, consider World War II. There are many compelling stories. Lots of dates and data to remember. However, for a moment, set all that aside, and just imagine the Allies had lost. How would the world be different today? What would life be like for those of Jewish heritage? Would freedom exist in Europe? Would we be speaking German? With historical events, you miss out if you focus only on the details: who, when, where. You also need to focus what that historical event means. The Allies won. That means something!

In this season of Easter, it is good we review the details: who, when, where. That reminds us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. It is a historical event... *the* historical event. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of Easter without thinking long and hard about Easter's significance. Jesus won. That means something! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the fifty days of Easter to discuss this fact: because he lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.



Apr. 27	We Have a Meaningful Mission
May 4	We Can See Things Clearly
May 11	We Know Jesus Is Trustworthy and True

# Service of Morning Praise



## Greeting & Invocation

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

**Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.**

Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

**Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.**

Better than life is your love.

**Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!**

Praise be to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

**Let us worship Him.**

## Hymn Sing Sunday

## Responsive Sentences

*Lamentations 3*

... this I call to mind

**and therefore I have hope:**

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

**They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

I say to myself,

**"The LORD is my portion therefore I will wait for him."**

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him... Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,

**so great is his unfailing love.**

For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men

**Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.** Thanks be to God.

Let us give glory to God, our light and our life.

Let us worship Him.

## Come, Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

*Venite*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first three staves end with a repeat sign. The fourth staff begins with a repeat sign and a bracketed instruction 'Repeat for use with canon' above it.

Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,  
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;  
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,  
*Repeat for use with canon*  
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

**Verses**

1. You are a great and a wondrous God,  
 2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,  
 cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
 kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.  
 You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
 You are the God whom we call our own,  
 you made the seas and the dry land.  
 we are the flock that you shep - herd.

*to Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

Rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray: 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.

## First Reading

*Acts 5:12, 17-32*

***The apostles did not let opposition prevent them from telling others about Christ's saving work***

<sup>12</sup>The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>17</sup>Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup>They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. <sup>20</sup>“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

<sup>21</sup>At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. <sup>22</sup>But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup>On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

<sup>25</sup>Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup>At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

<sup>27</sup>The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup>“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup>Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of 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.

## Psalm of the Day

**Psalm 150** | *Sing Praise to the LORD, You People of Grace*

**v. 1 & first refrain:** Vocalists

**vs. 2–4 & refrains:** Congregation

## Second Reading

Revelation 1:4–18

*The risen Savior promises to be with his churches as they carry out their meaningful mission*

<sup>4</sup>John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

<sup>7</sup>“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”  
and “every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him”;  
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”  
So shall it 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.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup>I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Reading

*John 20:19–31*

***Jesus provides us with peace so that we might be empowered to share Christ's forgiveness***

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## Children's Message

*All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.*

10:30 Service

## Children's Church

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



## Hymn of the Day

**CW456** | O Sons and Daughters of the King  
Note: verses **3 & 6** will be sung by our vocalists

## Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

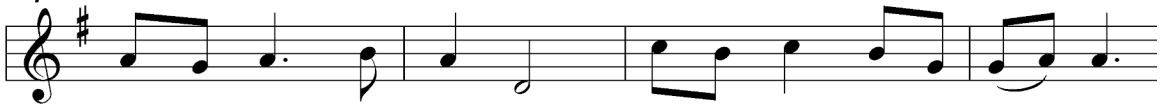
“This Is What Makes You Blessed and a Blessing”

John 20:19–31

## You Are God; We Praise You

*Te Deum*

### Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

### Verses

- 1 With the angels in heaven, we praise you, we praise you!  
With the cherubim and seraphim, we praise you, we praise you!  
With apostles and prophets, we praise you, we praise you!  
With the martyrs and your holy Church, we sing in endless praise! **Refrain**
- 2 Creator of all things, we praise you, we praise you!  
O Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we praise you, we praise you!  
O Spirit, most holy, we praise you, we praise you!  
To the Trinity, most blessed, we sing in endless praise! **Refrain**

3 O Christ, King of glory, we praise you, we praise you!  
You became a man to set us free; we praise you, we praise you!  
You have risen to free us; we praise you, we praise you!  
And with all your saints in glory, we sing in endless praise! **Final Refrain**

### **Final Refrain**

You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we acclaim you.  
To you, O Father holy, all creation offers praise,  
all creation offers praise, all creation offers praise.

## Thank Offering

**Guests:** *This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



*Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.*

## Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. 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.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.**

## Closing Hymn

*CW442 | Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia*



## Video

*Kids Connection*



## Serving in Worship

### Pastor

*Rev. Jonathan Kolander*

### Vocalists

*Mrs. Anne Grotefend*

### Organist

*Ms. Jeanine Heller*

*Mrs. Jenny Kolander*

*Mrs. Leah Mielke*

*Mrs. Katie Seelman*

## Acknowledgments

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## MY WORSHIP NOTES



*For children to use during worship.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the church season or special day today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue   White   Purple   Red   Green

The Sermon Text Was: \_\_\_\_\_

This is in the:   ☐ Old Testament   ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes  
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Sermon Notes

### **For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...**

1<sup>st</sup>: What continued to be a roadblock to these members of the Sanhedrin? And, what continues to be a roadblock for people today? What are some challenging laws our nation has made which causes verse 29 to be applied? Read 2 Timothy 1:3–18.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Note how many ways Jesus is described in these verses, along with the significance of each description. What is the overriding message Jesus gets across here, and why is this to matter to you? Read Ezekiel 34.

3<sup>rd</sup>: What is a key message of Jesus which is still very much applicable today? The purpose of the Bible is laid out, and that is what? Read Romans 10.



### **Contact Information**

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

