

Introit



A Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

C **Oh give thanks to the Lord; call up- | on his name;***
make known his deeds among the | peoples!

Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;*
tell of all his | wondrous works!

Glory in his | holy name;*
let the hearts of those who seek the | Lord rejoice!

Seek the LORD | and his strength;*
seek his presence con- | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered.

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

A Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

(Psalm 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading – Acts 4:32–35

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among

them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Gradual

A Christ has risen | from the dead.*

God the Father has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle – 1 John 1:1—2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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The Holy Gospel – John 20:19–31

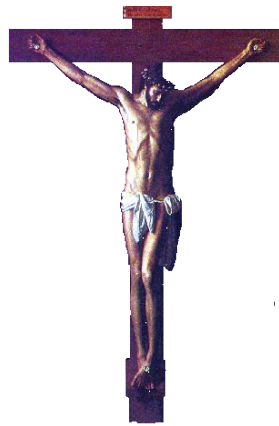
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I

see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



Soli Deo Gloria



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

The Divine Service of Holy Communion

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A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

Dear Visitors and Friends: The Easter message "He Is Risen" would mean nothing to us unless our gracious God had provided the means by which we each may receive the blessings earned for us by Christ's death and guaranteed by His resurrection. The ways God brings the forgiveness Jesus earned for us on the cross is through the Holy Scriptures, Absolution, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper! As we celebrate this Sacrament, we also humbly acknowledge the Bible's concern for doctrinal oneness by those who receive it together.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.