



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.  
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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813  
Chris Fusco, Music Director  
Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst  
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

## Second Sunday of Easter *April 27, 2025*

### **Our mission:**

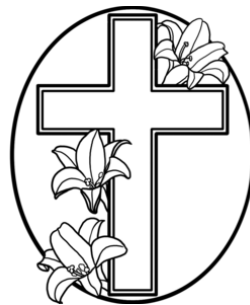
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

**Welcome.** What causes one person to doubt and another to believe? Often, this is a great mystery to us. Jesus once said, "The wind blows where it wills...So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Fear of persecution kept the disciples from believing, until Jesus appeared and brought his divine peace into the room. Thomas would not believe in Jesus' resurrection until he could see and touch the scars for himself. Yet again, Jesus appeared and brought Thomas to faith. Our Lord pursues the doubters of His Word still today in all manner of ways. And that includes using you and your faith as an example and inspiration for others to follow.

**Welcome guests!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cry room is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

**Communion Note:** We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

# PREPARATION



## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen

**P** If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,  
**C** have mercy on us.

**All:** We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted You with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In Your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by Your Spirit that we may live and serve You in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and truth. Amen.

**P** With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God!

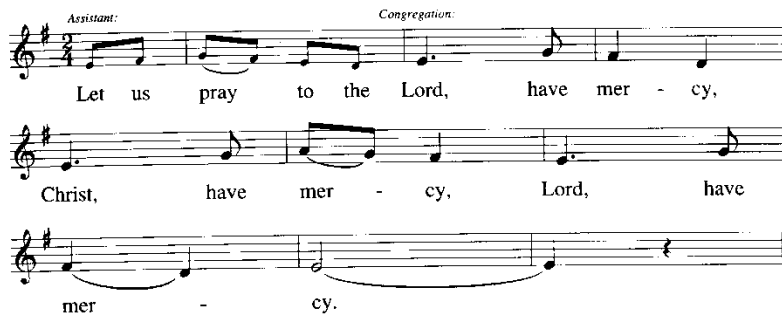
## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**OPENING HYMN**     463     Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia

**KYRIE**     *Lord, Have Mercy*

*Mark 10:47*

Pastor: In peace, in peace,



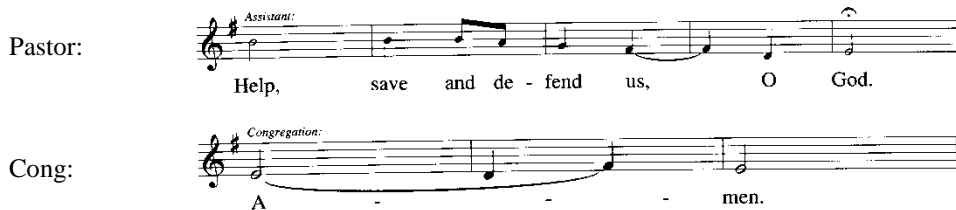
Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have  
mer - cy.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The Assistant's part is on the first staff, and the Congregation's part is on the second and third staves. The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the third staff.

Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)



Pastor: Congregation:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God.  
A - - - men.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The Pastor's part is on the first staff, and the Congregation's part is on the second staff. The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the second staff.

## NOW THE FEAST

### Refrain

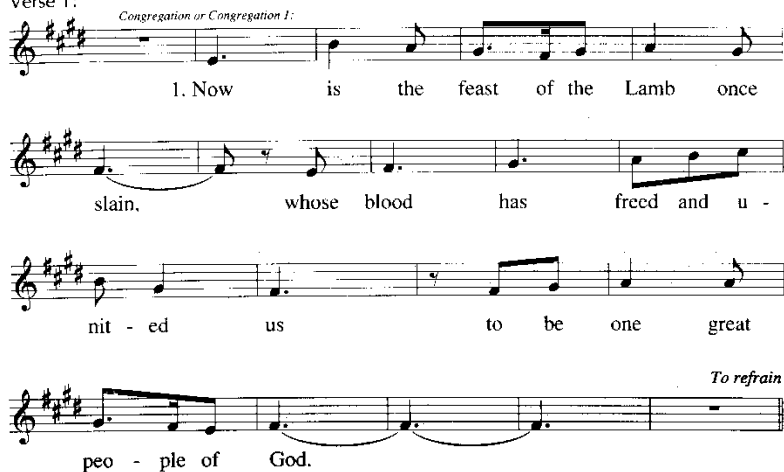
*Congregation:*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

### Verse 1:

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*



1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great  
peo - ple of God.

*To refrain*

## Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er.

*To refrain*

## Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new.

*To refrain*

## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P**  
**C**  
**P**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

**C**

Amen



**FIRST READING:** Acts 5:12-20 (see back)

**PSALM:** Psalm 148 (spoken responsively)

P: Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

**C: Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his hosts!**

P: Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!

**C: Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
For he commanded and they were created.

**C: And he established them forever and ever;  
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

P: Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

**C: fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

P: Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

**C: Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

P: Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**C: Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!**

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

**C: He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near  
to him.**

**Praise the LORD!**

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.

**SECOND READING:** Revelation 1:4-18 (see back)

**ALLELUIA VERSE:**

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

## HOLY GOSPEL

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*John 20:19-31*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



**APOSTLES' CREED** (Inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King (st. 1, 4-8)

## SERMON

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

**P** ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**Prayer Request List** (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

### *For comfort:*

Mary Ellen's family

Death of Mary Ellen

Hoppe

### *For those with health concerns:*

Pat McCann	Janice Nuneviller	Cole Garrow	Barbara Nixon	Sid	Greg
Gordon Anderson	Donna Poucel	Lolly Hoagland	Claudia Zucker	Susan	Zane
Fran Byrzkinsky	Pete Serone	John Tarlo	Grant and Noah	Chris	JoAnne
Claudia Zucker	John O'Neil	Claire Haenisch	Monica Benesch	Rose	Claire
Kay Compton	Bob Van Hise	Terry Farley	Phil Unetic	Beverly	Barbara
George DiCostanzo	Freda Potts	Carl Lauricella	Pat Dietz	Mary	Brennan
Linda Wright	Dave Yost	Kathy	Rick Wright	Kevin	Anna

### *For those with cancer:*

Rosalie Reinbacher	Aaron Kline	Holly Bray	Lynn	Trudy
Rich Knechel	Karen Shevchuk	Gerry Campbell	Jason	Lance
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Brad Hoppe	Kathy	Linda
Nico Benesch	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Sonia	Henry J.
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Dora	Joan Rawls
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Doris	Mary Anne
Jane Fry	Marci Fehlhafer	Gerry Campbell	Barbara	
Barbara Howard	Dick Butterfoss	Dave Bond	William	
Lexi Launchbaugh	Frumi C	Kim McCollough	Jerry	

***For those with needs around the world:***

Persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ  
Government officials and people of our nation  
Those coping with disasters  
Those in need of employment  
Wars in Europe and Middle East  
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine

For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel  
For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom  
For provision and help  
For provision of jobs  
For peace, forgiveness, and guidance  
For health, safety, and provision

***For those serving in the armed forces:***

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Jesse Sowell	Mike Bahney

***For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:***

For staff and families of the school

For enrollment '25-'26

***Birthdays:***

Daniel Gewecke    April 27

Joey Dunbar    April 30

Christine Weiland    May 1

**GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

**Instrumental Offertory**

**Congregational Offertory:**

Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat    once    scat-tered on the hill    were



gath-ered in - to one    to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple    from all the ends of earth    be



gath-ered in - to one    in    you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing    is shared with - in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore-taste    of all that is to come    when



*To refrain*

may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.



## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

<b>P</b>	The Lord be with you.
<b>P</b>	Lift up your hearts.
<b>P</b>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** And also with you.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...  
**C** Amen.

**SANCTUS** *Holy, Holy, Holy* (LSB p. 208)

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**c** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

## PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord*

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

**AGNUS DEI** *Lamb of God*

*Congregation:*



Lamb of God,

*Congregation or Assistant:*

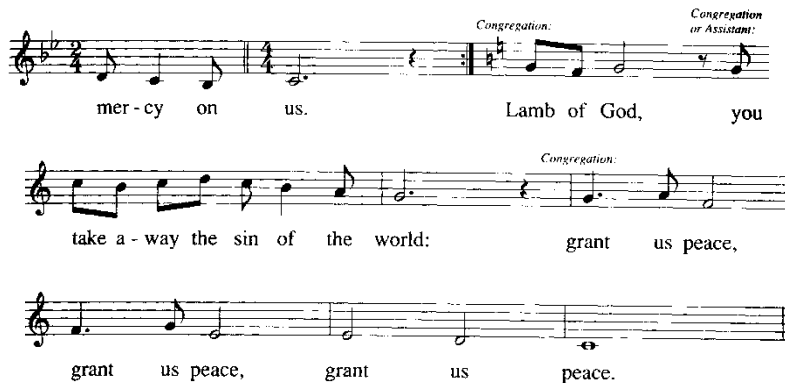


you take a - way the sin of the  
you are the bread of life for us  
you are the way of jus - tice and

*Congregation:*



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
all:  
peace:



**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN** 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns (st 1-4)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**



**TAKE IT FURTHER:** Today's Opening Hymn, LSB 463

**Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia**

How wonderful to enjoy the exultant cries of "Alleluia" again during this Easter season! Our opening hymn "invites us to the Paschal Feast, praising the Paschal Lamb who has risen and is present at the Eucharist," a true reason for celebration and praise. The text is part of the medieval sequence for Easter attributed to Wipo of Burgundy (ca. 995 – after 1048). Historically, sequences are choral chants which are a part of the service which often comment on the Gospel; the sequence to which this text belongs is called "Victimae paschali laudes."

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 338-347

***Memory Verse Challenge:*** John 20:31

*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.*



## Announcements – Week of April 27, 2025

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week**

**\*MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00\***

**Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Joey Dunbar (Ushers), Amy Van Hise (Communion/coffee set- up and live-streaming).

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link:

[https://youtube.com/live/r\\_Hkr2CL0nw](https://youtube.com/live/r_Hkr2CL0nw) If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the [church's website](#).

**8:15am Sunday Bible Study.** This Sunday we will study the 6th commandment: "You shall not commit adultery." (Ex. 20:14). As in prior cases, Jesus teaches us that this command extends beyond the breaking of wedding vows to include even our unclean thoughts. What are modern views of marriage that challenge the Biblical witness? How can Christians lift up this sacred institution? And how does the commandment apply to those who have chosen a life of singleness? Join our study!

**Join us for the after-service Discussion Group.** Dig deeper into today's scripture readings following the service in the fellowship hall.

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Our evening classes are on break; Bible studies resume on May 14<sup>th</sup>!

### **Weekly Schedule:**

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY	Pastor Away for Conference
THURSDAY (5/1)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels
SUNDAY (5/4)	8:15a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group;

### **Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry**

**Thank You to our Easter Helpers.** A BIG thank-you is due to all who helped with our Easter celebrations last Sunday. We are grateful to those who helped beautify our sanctuary, our musicians, our cooks and servers for a delicious Easter breakfast, all the generous donations to our Youth Gathering trip, and those who helped or participated in our Easter Egg Hunt. What a blessed day of worship and fellowship it was!

**Operation Christmas Child.** In May we will continue collecting plastic tumblers (dollar store 3/\$1 are perfect), washcloths, and note-pads. Place in the box in the narthex. There is also a jar in the narthex to make donations toward the shipping costs - thanks so much!

**Prayer Chain.** The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

**The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry.** Join us in making special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event! Please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

### **Service and Other**

**Music Mission to Puerto Rico.** Today we are collecting a door offering to support Samuel Dunbar on his upcoming mission trip. Sam is part of a team of nine Music Education students from Concordia University-Nebraska who are traveling to Puerto Rico in May. They will spend a week visiting Lutheran congregations in three communities (San Juan, Ponce, and Mayaguez) and introducing them to a new Spanish language hymnal. Working alongside resident missionaries, team members will teach hymns, build confidence in congregational singing, and participate in outreach efforts to the local communities. Checks can be made to St. Peter Lutheran Church, with "Puerto Rico Mission" in the memo line.

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. April's collection is Pasta - any varieties of noodles and sauces!

**Faithfulness Report:** Attendance 4/20: 71/75, 17 online    Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$11,278 (Holy Wk)  
Debt relief: \$50    Youth Gathering registration: \$530    Youth Gathering: \$160    Easter Flowers: \$44

**Website and Facebook.** Come online to check us out! Our website is at [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org), and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church – the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612> .

**St. Peter YouTube Channel.** Increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel (where we live-stream and record our worship services and Wednesday Zoom bible studies. It is linked to our church website, or go to YouTube and search "Saint Peter Lutheran Church".

### **Other Important web links:**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod    [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)  
NJ District LCMS    [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)  
LCMS World Relief and Human Care    [lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)  
The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast    [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

**Keep Up with District News.** Twice per month, the New Jersey District electronic newsletter - The Grapevine - publicizes events taking place among all the LCMS congregations in our state. It's a great way to keep up with District initiatives, hear what our sister churches are doing in the way of outreach to their communities, publicize our own events, and perhaps glean some ideas for St. Peter! The Grapevine comes out the first and third weeks of every month. Sign up is easy. Go to the district website - [www.njdistrict.org](http://www.njdistrict.org) , follow the link to sign up, and provide your email address.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 5:12–20

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

### Second Reading: Revelation 1:4–18

<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 kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. 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 partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven

golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

### Holy Gospel: John 20:19–31

<sup>19</sup>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." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And 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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 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."

<sup>26</sup>Eight 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."

<sup>27</sup>Then 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." <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 believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but 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.