

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service — Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025 10:30am

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. 1Peter 1:3

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG #SPW 199

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space! Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

Give praise for God’s mighty deeds! Give praise for God’s resurrecting power!

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.

Praise God with the harp and the cello!

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

Praise God with flutes and guitars!

Praise God with cymbals and drums!

Let everything with life and breath praise God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us. In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others. Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN #119

“The Strife Is O’er”

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord’s desire to give us peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God’s own forgiven people, go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #SPW 122

“He Is Lord”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, as the risen Christ came into the locked room of the first disciples, may your Word enter into us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we who have not seen may yet believe. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 5:27-32

ANTHEM

**“Easter Carol”
SLUC Choir**

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

SERMON

**“The New Church”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford**

HYMN #399

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

OFFERING

HYMN #428 (Verse 1)

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #113

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

HYMN #593 (Doxology)

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

POSTLUDE