

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026
8:15AM

WHAT IS
Faith?

SERMON

Rev. Arthur Gillespie
"So, what is Faith?"
(John 20, Mark 9, Acts 8)

Welcome to
St. Luke Lutheran Church
20 Candlewood Path
Dix Hills, NY 11746-5398
Church: 631-499-8656 - Fax: 631-462-6496
Preschool: 631-462-5216
Our Website: www.stlukedixhills.org

Satellite for the Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

Welcome!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome both members and guests to His church. We are present this day to worship Him. In this service we thank and honor our Lord for His many blessings and seek His guidance and comfort for each day of life.

- ❖ Be **reverent** and **thoughtful** in this Holy place.
- ❖ **Before** the service, speak with God.
- ❖ **During** the service, let God speak to you.
- ❖ **After** the service, speak to one another.

As We Gather: We begin our worship today praising the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. For this saving work, Christ is truly worthy of praise, adoration, thanks and honor. He is truly worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now we shall hear again the great story of salvation that was won for us by the Lamb of God. Rejoice! For the lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

Holy Communion is celebrated at each Worship Service.

The Lord's Supper is a gift from our Savior in which He offers us Himself and His forgiveness. Those who partake witness their love for Him and their faith and fellowship for each other. If you have confessed your sins and if you have been properly instructed regarding the Lord's Supper, and believe in the presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, please join us for the celebration of Holy Communion.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

8:15am & 10:45am w/ Sunday School

Contemporary Band plays Sundays two times/month (check online calendar)

Sundays at 10:45 AM

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday morning between services at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Mornings online at 10:00 AM

The **C.A.R.E Team** encourages *anyone experiencing illness or a challenging situation in their life to reach out to us for support. Support can consist of emotional/spiritual support, meals, transportation, help with errands or chores, and other areas as they are identified. Contact via **Hotline: (631) 600-0271** Or email careteam@stlukedixhills.org Coordinators: Trish Klare & Amanda Fenty*

Mission Statement

To know Christ and make him known by Serving, Teaching, and Loving.

PRELUDE

Old Easter Melody - O Filii et Fillie - John West

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL FOR PRAYERS

Stand

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor: Most Merciful God,

People: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

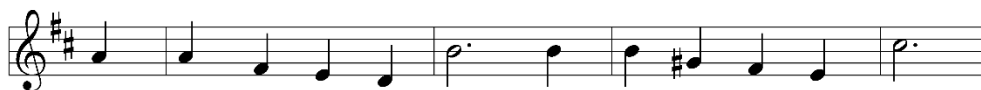
OPENING HYMN
“Crown Him with Many Crowns” LBW 170 - V.1, 3, 4



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

KYRIE – LBW pp.78-79



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



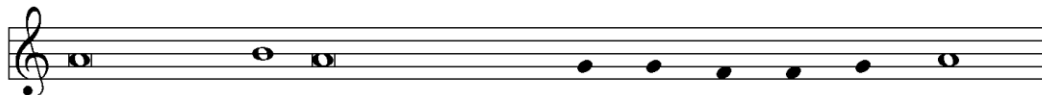
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

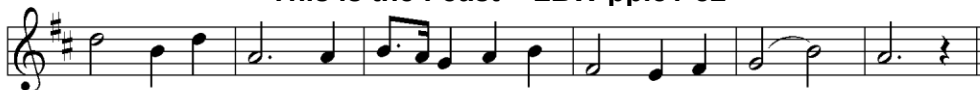


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE
This is the Feast – LBW pp.81-82



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!

³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148:7-14

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ **lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,**

⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ **wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² **young men and women,
old men and children.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ **And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.**

Praise the Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ 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 ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL VERSE– LBW p.83

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

THE GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ 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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ Arose"

1. Low in the grave He lay— Je - sus, my Sav - ior! Wait - ing the
 2. Vain - ly they watch His bed— Je - sus, my Sav - ior! Vain - ly they
 3. Death can - not keep his prey— Je - sus, my Sav - ior! He tore the

Chorus - faster

com - ing day— Je - sus, my Lord!
 seal the dead— Je - sus, my Lord! Up from the grave He arose, With a
 bars a - way— Je - sus, my Lord! He arose,

might - y tri - umph o'er His foes. He arose! He a - rose a vic - tor from the

dark do - main, And He lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign. He a -

rit.

rose! He arose, He a - rose! He arose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

SERMON

Rev. Arthur Gillespie

"So, what is Faith?"

(John 20, Mark 9, Acts 8)

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED – LBW p.85

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with "Merciful God"

The response is "**receive our prayer.**"

Pastor: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” - Max Reger

Stand

OFFERING PRESENTATION & OFFERING HYMN

“Let the Vineyards...” LBW p.86



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER – LBW p.88

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

People: O Lord our God, maker of all things,

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING – LSB 208

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

SANCTUS – LBW p. 89



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



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you**

Sit

LAMB OF GOD – LBW p.92



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a- way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION MUSIC

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks” WOV 671

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the
ris-en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Verses



1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4. God has pro - claimed his gra - cious gift:
5. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,



He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for ev - er.
Life e - ter - nal for all who be - lieve.
Joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950

Tune: ALLELUIA NO. 1, 8 8 with refrain; Donald Fishel, b.1950

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“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” WOV 675



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 That, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

“Jesus, the Very Thought of You” LBW 316



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

COMMUNION DISMISSAL – LBW p.92

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

People: **Amen.**

Stand

POST COMMUNION HYMN “Thank the Lord...” LBW p. 92-93



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sit

MINISTRY NEWS

Stand

CLOSING HYMN

“The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done” LBW 135, V.1, 3, 5



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting



vic - tor's tri - umph won! Now be the
 le - gions has dis - persed. Let shouts of
 glo - rious from the dead. All glo - ry
 heav'n's high por - tals fell. Let hymns of
 free your ser - vants too, that we may



song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“The Strife Is O'er” - Alfred Fedak

Carnival Sponsorship Opportunities Update

St. Luke Church will be running a children's carnival on May 30, 2026. The funds from this carnival help support the various missions of St. Luke, including the pre-school and youth program. We hope you will consider taking advantage of our many sponsorship opportunities. Through your generosity, St Luke can continue to make a positive impact within the church and community.

Carnival Arcade: Total cost \$5,000
Minimum sponsorship suggestion \$200



Petting Zoo and Pony Rides: total cost 1,550
Minimum Sponsorship suggestion \$200



Prizes: Total cost \$500
Minimum Sponsorship suggestion \$100

Food: Total Cost \$600
Minimum Sponsorship suggestion \$100



****Thank you to the generous sponsors who have fully funded: The Magician, Balloon Twister, Cotton Candy, and Dunk Tank!**

Scan the QR Code
to Donate Online
Scroll down to Carnival.
Please note what you are sponsoring.

Please return the completed form below to the St. Luke Church office, St. Luke Preschool Office, or mail to 20 Candlewood Path, Dix Hills, NY 11746 c/o Lisa Wenz

Name _____

Address _____

Please Accept my donation towards _____

Amount included _____

Name for sponsorship display: _____

Office use only... cash check # _____

Date received ____/____/____ Initials _____