

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



The Second Sunday After Easter
April 18, 2021

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family.

Christian education classes for all ages have begun again. Classes start at 10 AM. Please see the building church in the foyer to determine the location of your classroom.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Pastor Meyers has written a short guide to our worship. You can find a copy at the Guest Book table in the foyer. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at www.providencestlouis.com.

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine (the grape juice has a darker color than the wine).

Jesus Christ Victor (*Front Cover*)



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are **white**. White symbolizes the promise of the glorious transfiguration of our flesh because of the glorification of Jesus in his resurrection from the dead.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — April 18, 2021

The Second Sunday After Easter

Preparation For Worship: Psalm 145

Organ – Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements – Pastor Jeff Meyers

The Entrance

Prelude

Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Silent Preparation [kneeling]

Call to Worship: *Psalm 145:17-19*

†Hymn #246 “Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness”

Trinity Hymnal

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor Caleb Skogen

In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

Call on the Name of the Lord in praise;

Psalm 105:1-5

Make known his deeds among the nations!

Sing to God with joyful songs;

Tell of all God's wonderful works!

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord of life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Help us now to proclaim to the world the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Purification

Pastor: Dearly beloved brethren, let us draw near to God our Father with an honest heart and confess our sins, asking him to forgive us for Christ's sake: [*Congregation kneels*]

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,

And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Psalm 32:2

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before you that we are prone to evil and slothful in good, and we have many shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned against you, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us. Teach us to hate our errors and cleanse us from our secret faults. *Silent Prayer. Amen!*

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads, arise, and hear the good news. . . !

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is fitting, right, and beneficial to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God; but chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life he has restored us to everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing. . .

†The Sanctus

with vigor
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven 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.

The Hebrew Scripture Reading: *Ezekiel 11:14-21*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Galatians 3:23-4:7*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†Easter Hymn “This joyful Eastertide”

1. This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow.
2. My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber;
Till trump from east to west,
Shall wake the dead in number.
3. Death’s flood has lost his chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.

Refrain

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne’er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now hath Christ arisen,
Arisen, arisen,
But now hath Christ arisen!*

Text: George R. Woodward, from <i>Carols for Easter and Ascensiontide</i> , 1894; Music: from Joachim Oudaen’s <i>David’s Psalmen</i> , Amsterdam, 1685; arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

†The Gospel Reading: *John 14:15-24*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God,
Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made:**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,**

and sits on the right hand of the Father.

And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

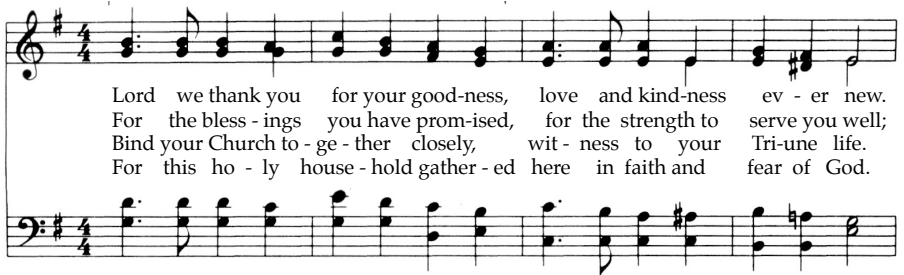
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

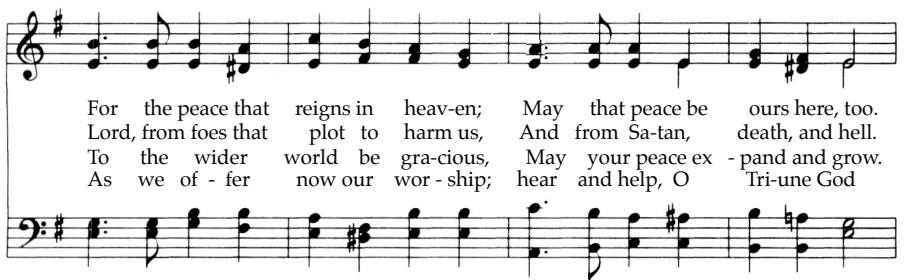
And I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen!

†The Kyrie



Lord we thank you for your good-ness, love and kind-ness ev - er new.
For the bless - ings you have prom-ised, for the strength to serve you well;
Bind your Church to - ge - ther closely, wit - ness to your Tri-une life.
For this ho - ly house - hold gather - ed here in faith and fear of God.



For the peace that reigns in heav-en; May that peace be ours here, too.
Lord, from foes that plot to harm us, And from Sa-tan, death, and hell.
To the wider world be gra-cious, May your peace ex - pand and grow.
As we of - fer now our wor - ship; hear and help, O Tri-une God



REFRAIN

By your mer - cy O de - liv - er us, good Lord.

Sermon Text: *John 14:15-24*

Pastor Jeff Meyers

Sermon: **THE OTHER HELPER**

LXI. AN EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

The Tribute Offering

†[Hands Raised] Doxology

†Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Father, God of Hope, we humbly present these gifts in recognition of the grace that you offer us each and every day. You have endowed us with great bounty. Today, we return a portion of this bounty to you as a generous expression of our gratitude, offering ourselves to you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

†Prayer of the Church

Almighty God, you have taught us to pray not only for ourselves but for all men: hear us as we pray for others, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. For your holy Church on earth; for her ministers, elders, deacons, that all who love the Savior may love him truly and serve him faithfully:

We ask You to hear us, O Lord.

For all who do not know the Gospel of your love in Jesus Christ, that you would be pleased to gather them into your fold:

We ask You to hear us, O Lord.

For your missionaries, especially those known to and supported by us, that they may cause your light to shine in the dark places of the earth:

We ask You to hear us, O Lord.

For our country, for our President and others in authority, that you would guide them in your wisdom:

We ask You to hear us, King of Kings.

For the poor, the exploited, and those too weak to defend themselves from powerful oppressors; for those seduced into immoral behavior by our increasingly ungodly culture; and especially the women and unborn children abused, injured, and even murdered by the abortion industry in our country:

We ask You to hear us, gracious Lord.

For all who are in sickness, sorrow, and trouble, that you would comfort and sustain them [*the congregation may add their petitions here*]:

We ask You to hear us, O Lord!

For the glorious company of the Apostles, prophets, and martyrs, and for the pleasant fellowship of the faithful in all ages:

We ask You to hear us, O Lord! Amen!

The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial for Bread & Wine

Hymn: #250 "Come, dearest Lord"

Trinity Hymnal

Pastoral Benediction

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): Luke 2:30-32

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

†Pastoral Prayer: Almighty God, merciful Father, since you have wakened from death the Shepherd of your Sheep, grant us the faithful presence of your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know him who calls us each by name and follow where he leads: through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

Hymn #247 "Come, O Come"

Trinity Hymnal (Tune of #127)

†Easter Charge: *Hebrews 13:20-21*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude

Welcome to Providence Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or elders. You are invited to join us for Christian education classes this morning from 10 till 11:45 AM.

Announcements

Evening Prayer Service for Sunday, April 25 — Please note that there is no evening service tonight. We will meet on Sunday, April 25.

Nursery Volunteers Needed! — As our schedule for worship and Sunday school has changed, the nursery has reopened. We are looking for volunteers! If you'd like to serve in the nursery, please see the signup sheets on the WIC table or email Ginny Sturlaugson (gsturlaugson@yahoo.com) directly if you have a date in mind you'd like to volunteer for. Thank you for serving our children and their parents in this way!

Additionally, parents, if your children play in the nursery at times that it is not staffed with volunteers (before Sunday school, after the service, etc.), please ensure that they put the toys away again when they are finished playing. This helps the next week's volunteers not have to clean up a mess before the children arrive for Sunday school. Thank you!

Temporary Sunday Schedule — We have changed the times for the Sunday worship services and have added Sunday school back into the schedule. This is the new temporary schedule through June 27th.

8:45 AM – Early Worship Service (masks required)

10:00 AM – Sunday School for Adults & Children (masks welcome, but not required)

11:00 AM – Late Worship Service (masks welcome, but not required)

Then, beginning Sunday, July 4th we will return to our normal schedule—one service at 9:30 AM, but no Sunday school till the Fall.

Sunday school will be suspended for July & August and resume on September 5th. On July 4th we return to our normal Sunday schedule without Sunday school. By keeping our two-service schedule for a few more months we will continue to serve members that are either vulnerable to COVID or have to be around others that are vulnerable until more people have had a chance to be vaccinated.

Adult Sunday School Class — We are holding two adult Sunday school classes between the two services (10–10:45 AM).

- Visitors, Inquirers, & New Members Class – led by Pastor Meyers (location to be announced)
- The Philosophy & Practice of Christian Education – led by Pastor Skogen, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Session Meeting — There is a session meeting, Monday the 19th at 7 PM.

Annual Congregational Meeting — We have postponed our annual congregational meeting (usually held on the first Sunday in May) until the first Sunday we are back together for one morning service. We will hold the meeting at 11 AM after the morning service on July 4th. We'll have more information about that as the date for the meeting gets closer.

Morning Prayer Service (Matins) — We meet every week in the sanctuary at 7:30 AM on Wednesdays for morning prayer. We would love to have you join us.

WIC (Women in the Church) Emails — Ladies if you are not receiving WIC emails (perhaps you are new to the church) and would like to please contact Deena Donnelly or text at 636-208-7335.

Men's Evening Bible Study — Our next evening men's Bible study will be this Tuesday, April 20th. We are working our way through the life of Abraham. The study begins at 7 PM and ends at 8 PM

Church Calendar

Today	Early Morning Worship at 8:45 Children's & Adult Sunday school 10-10:45 Late Morning Worship at 11:00 AM Session Meeting at 7 PM
Monday, Apr 19	Mens Genesis Bible Study at 7 PM
Tuesday, Apr 20	Morning Prayer service at 7:30 AM
Wednesday, Apr 21	Ladies Bible Study at 9:30 AM
Thursday, Apr 22	Evening Prayer Service at 6 PM
Sunday, Apr 25	Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM
Sunday, July 4	Annual Congregational Meeting No Sunday School

The Lord's Service Explained

Easter Season

In the early, post-apostolic Church it was the feast of Easter that established the starting point of the development of the liturgical church year. The year as a whole receives its "Sunday" at Easter. Just as the first day of the week gives meaning and purpose to the weekly pattern of human life, so also the celebration of Easter in the Spring orients the entire year around the victorious resurrection of Christ for the life of the world. The early Church did not intend for this yearly pattern to replace or weaken the weekly Sunday worship of the church. Rather, the annual pattern was intended to enable the church to understand even better the mystery of Christ's sanctification of all of life, time included.

Early on in the Church's development of the Easter feast, following the weekly pattern, the annual celebration was set within a framework of six weeks of preparation and repentance (called Lent), ending with the rest of Easter. Then, following Easter Sunday, seven weeks of exultation and feasting were decreed, ending in Pentecost and the beginning of an "eighth week." The church, therefore, celebrates a "week of weeks" during the Easter season as a reminder of Christ's comprehensive redemption of all of life, a time of feasting, giving thanks, and praise to the Risen Christ. Easter season ends with the festival of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) which ends the seven weeks and ushers in the world to come (symbolically, the eighth day or week). Use these seven weeks of Easter season not just to meditate and reflect upon the resurrection of our Lord, but also to rejoice, give thanks, and sing about the comprehensive victory that he has accomplished for you.

The color for Easter is white. White symbolizes purity, light, and life. It is the bright "color" of Jesus' glorified humanity after his resurrection and therefore will also be the "color" of our new "clothing" when we are resurrected. Easter hymns can be found in the Trinity Hymnal #197-209, and also #596-609.

An Easter Prayer: O almighty and eternal God, now that you have assured us of the completion of our redemption through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, give us the will to show forth in our lives what we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age. Amen.