



Worship Program  
April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Second Weekend of Easter

## Introduction

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism *(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

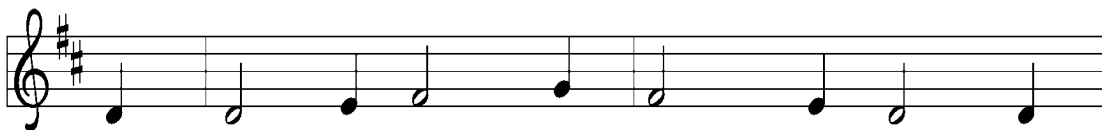
## Greeting

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

**C: And also, with you.**

## Gathering Hymn "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Hymn 384



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

## Canticle of Praise

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

*(While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.)*

WA: Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Psalm 133

WA: How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

**C: It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

WA: It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

## Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

*(The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.)*

WA: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life. This life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My 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.

And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**"Alleluia"** (Setting 3, ELW pg. 142) *(Please stand if you are able)*

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

P: The holy gospel according to John.

### **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

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."

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."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

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."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

Hymn 385 *(Please stand if you are able)*



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
- 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
- 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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



## Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Intercession

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*(silence is kept for reflection)*

P: Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed, and we witness to your love. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (*especially*). God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

*(after sharing of the Peace, please be seated)*

### Offertory Song

**"O God of Every Nation"** vs. 1 & 4

Offering Prayer *(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **C: Amen.**

## The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also, with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”** (Setting Three, ELW pg. 144)

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**C: 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. *(Please be seated)*

**"Lamb of God"** Setting Three, ELW pg.146

## Special Music

"Hymn of Heaven" Performed by Phil Wickham

## Prayer after Communion

*(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

## Blessing

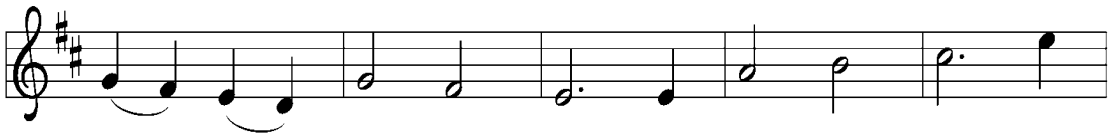
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

# Sending Hymn "Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing" Hymn 389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Readers/Communion Assistants

**April 6** Jack Weisbrodt

**April 7** Jamie McMullen

**April 13** Kerri & Tim Moyer

**April 14** Noelle Berkey & Cindy Solarczyk

**April 20** *HELP WANTED*

**April 21** *HELP WANTED*

**April 27** *HELP WANTED*

**April 28** Ray Leverknight

Ushers

**April 6** Pat Bittner & Linda Barnhart

**April 7** *HELP WANTED*

**April 13** Missy Brodt & Chris Morningstar

**April 14** David & Missy Raho

**April 20** *HELP WANTED*

**April 21** *HELP WANTED*

**April 27** *HELP WANTED*

**April 28** *HELP WANTED*

Worship Leader Schedule

April 6/7 Lay Leader Gary Mickle

April 13 Claudia Plows

April 14 Rev. Nathan Pile

April 20/21 Pastor Brad Dayton (*UPJ Campus*)

April 27/28 Pastor Ed DeVore

## Family Kitchen



Mt. Calvary will be volunteering at The Family Kitchen on Sunday, April 7th from 11-1. Job responsibilities include preparing/packing take-out containers, washing dishes, and cleaning. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you!



Mount Calvary's annual weed and feed will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Bring your favorite gardening tool! *A light meal will be served afterwards.*

# The Giving Tree

Helping Those  
in Need



The Giving Tree for the month's of April and May will be used to support two groups that use our building: The Richland Learning Center and AA. For the Richland Learning Center, there will be labeled envelopes in the narthex to collect monetary donations. These donations will be used to purchase a religious book for each of their 12 graduates this year.

**Please have all envelopes returned by Sunday, May 5th.**

During this time we will also be collecting cookies and coffee for our AA groups. They prefer caffeinated coffee grounds, and any type of packaged cookies will do.

Thank you for your continued support!