

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SEASON OF EASTER 2021

GATHERING

We enter in a spirit of contemplation, as the beloved people of God, and the prelude helps to prepare us for worship. Words said by the pastor/leader are in plain type; words said by the congregation are in bold.

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

All may cross their forehead as a reminder of our baptism, as we give thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING *Acts 3:12-19*

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,

when kindred live together in unity!

²**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.**

³It 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*

¹We 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—²this 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—³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no shadow at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in shadow, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, the one who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and 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. **Thanks be to God.**

SERVICE MUSIC

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Gospel Acclamation

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL *John 20:19-31*

The Holy Gospel, according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

After hearing the sermon, we proclaim the word of God in song.

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this third Sunday of Easter, we pray for all in any need, responding to each petition with words echoing today's psalm, "Hear us when we call."

A brief silence.

Holy and righteous God, for the church, we pray:
for our own congregation,
for the churches of all our neighbors and around the globe,
and especially for Christians in Nigeria and wherever martyrdoms threaten.

O God our Savior, bless your people, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For the earth we pray:
for the well-being of terrains, plants, and animals wild and tame,
for the birds, especially songbirds whose numbers are decreasing,
and for this week's Earth Day, that good will come from the worldwide observance.

O God our Creator, restore your handiwork, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For peace we pray:
for the end of warfare, terrorism, and cruelty to the poor,
for a respectful treatment of refugees and all who are incarcerated,
and especially for Northern Ireland and Myanmar, and other places of civil unrest.

O God our Sovereign, bring peace to the nations, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For justice we pray:
for the liberation of all who are oppressed,
for an end to ethnic and economic prejudice,
for an end to police violence,
and for all court cases in this and every land.

O God our Refuge, protect the vulnerable, and have mercy on us.
Hear us when we call.

For all who are sick and suffering,
for those who have no access to the coronavirus vaccines,
for the children afflicted with the virus variants,

for everyone who fears receiving medical advice and assistance,
for those who live with chronic pain,
for those whose pain is known only to you,
and especially for Clare, Nathaniel, Karen, Ingrid, Mason, Lauren, Sean, Sarah, Juli,
Sarah, Adeline, Donovan, Susan, and all those we hold in our hearts.

O God our Caregiver, heal the sick, and have mercy on us.

Hear us when we call.

We remember before you all the witnesses of the resurrection,
the saints of old,
those who have died by violence, especially Daunte Wright;
for those who have died of the coronavirus;
for those who have died by suicide;
and for our relatives and friends who now rest in you, especially Alyson and Tom.

O God our Resurrection, give us life now and forever, and have mercy on us.

Hear us when we call.

Receive these prayers into your heart of mercy for the sake of the holy and righteous
one, Jesus Christ, our wondrous Redeemer.

Amen.

PEACE

*After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gifts of Christ's
peace.*

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

*A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a
sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all of God's gifts. The table is set
with bread and wine.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *(written by Rev. Katie Hines-Shah)*

Blessed are you,
O God of the Universe
You protect and preserve us

And make the ordinary holy
Through the power of your love.

Praise to you for all of creation!
For making humankind from the very dust of the earth
and giving us all we need for sustenance.
Praise to you for preserving Noah and his family
through their 40 days of sheltering in place
and giving them the sign of the rainbow
when it was safe to venture out again.
Praise to you for bringing the Hebrew people
safely through the sea and beyond the reach of oppression.
In the wilderness you provided them with manna and water from the rock
as they journeyed into a new reality.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one:
Who turned water into wine.
Who fed thousands with a few loaves and fish.
Who healed, taught, and blessed,
all those who came close to him
and those separated by distance.
Who loved the world so much that he became one of us,
sharing our common life,
suffering and dying,
And gloriously rising,
breaking the bonds of sin, death and the devil
so that nothing could ever separate us from you.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

With this bread and this cup
We remember Jesus's presence among us
As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life,
Pour out your Holy Spirit,
Make this bread and wine before us
The body and blood of your Son.
Enter into our locked rooms
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Strengthen and preserve us for the trials we endure now.
Send us your Holy Spirit
to comfort, empower, challenge, and encourage us
to be a sign of resurrection to the world.

Come Holy Spirit!

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with those gathered on screens across time and space,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come;

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever.

Amen.

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:
Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Creator, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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