



House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Second Sunday in Easter, Year B

(The “+” insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

Prelude: *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

George Bohm

Welcome and Gathering

Announcements

Ring of the Bell (*please remain seated*)



+Gathering Hymn: *ELW 363 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (vv. 1, 3, 5)*

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

+Greeting

L: 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.

+Call to Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

L: We gather as people on a journey.

**C: We believe and we have doubts, we do good and we sin.
We are imperfect humans, and still beloved by God.**

L: Love and grace. Hope and faith. These are the essence of the one we call God.

C: We seek forgiveness and grace from God and from those we've harmed.

Silence for self-reflection

L: Almighty God,

C: Creator of the heavens and earth, we confess that we do not always live into the message of hope and salvation, the promise of eternal life. We live in ways that make the here and now more important than the future. We live in ways that put ourselves and our own success first over the needs of others and the long-term needs of the world.

Forgive us for our selfish ways and call us into the path of Christ, who humbled himself and gave himself up for us on the cross, so that death might be no more and that all can share in the joy of salvation and eternal life, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

L: Open your hearts to receive the good news. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Assured of that grace, prepare to grow in Christ's love.

C: We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.

L: Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here. Speak to us, God! Continue creating us!

C: Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.

+Prayer of the Day

L: We join in prayer. Almighty God,

C: with joy we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, but we still carry our doubts. We embrace the worries and fears of our neighbors and doubt that your presence is enough to change the world. Stir us to proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord, and My God" when we are called to be your abundant presence in the world. All this we pray in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, our Resurrected Saviour and Lord, Amen.

You may be seated

Word

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

²[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.”

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.

¹**How good and how pleasant it is, for us to live together in unity!**

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 him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are

walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he 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 him a liar, and his 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life: C: Thanks be to God!

+Gospel Acclamation:

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

+Gospel: John 20:19-31

L: The Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

C: 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.

L: The Good News of God. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon: In Defense of Doubt

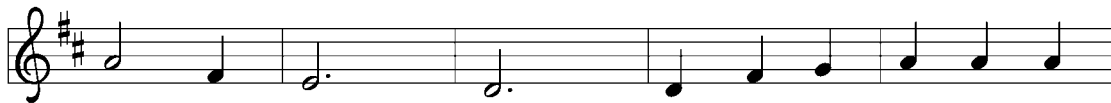


Hymn: *ELW 815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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+Apostle's Creed

**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 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.**

You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession

L: 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.

Spoken Response: L: God of Grace, **C: Receive our Prayer.**

prayers end with: 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.

Peace: L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

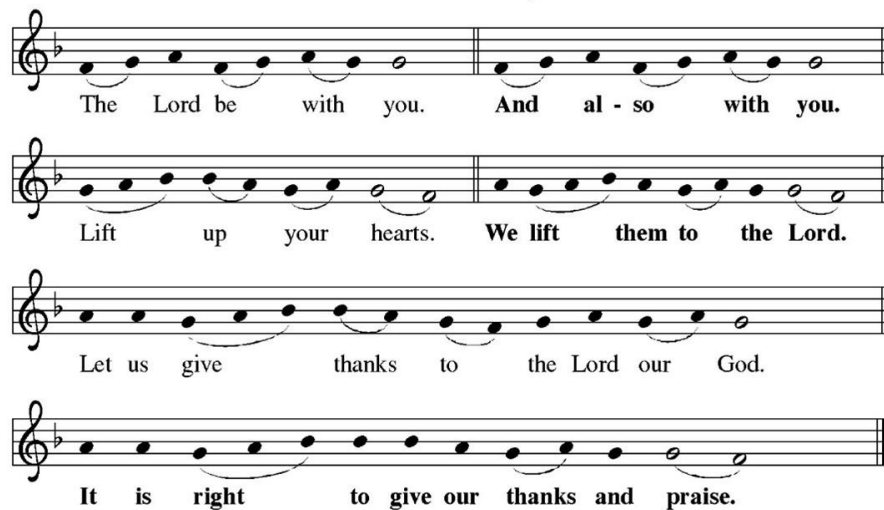
Offering: Josh Countryman

Offering Prayer

L: Generous and surprising God, when we thought death had claimed your beloved Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our offerings at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to embody the gospel. In Jesus' name, we pray,

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Preface

L: 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...we **stand** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... *(please stand)*



+Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

+Lord's Prayer

**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.**

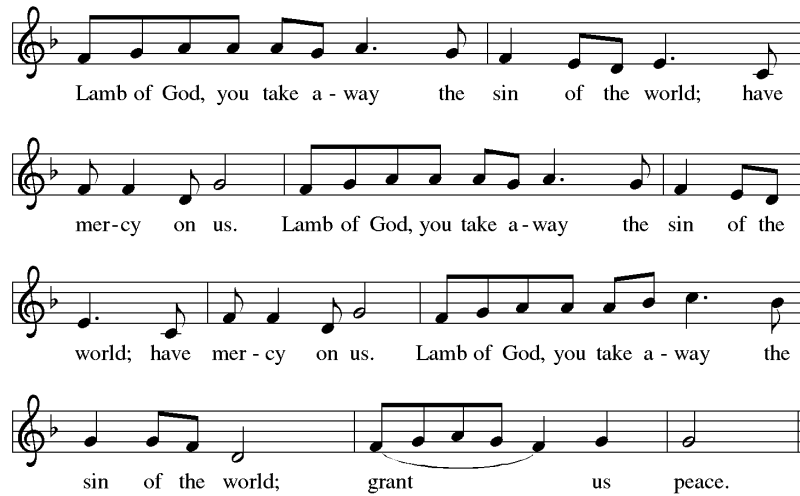
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

+Invitation to Communion

L: All are welcome to this meal. Come, experience the hospitality of God.

(You may be seated)

Communion



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.

Music during Distribution:

Hymn ELW 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (vv. 1, 4, 5)



- 1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
- 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
- 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
- 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
- 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con-quer - or, has gone,
Christ who died our broth-er here lives our broth-er still on high,
joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

+Prayer after Communion

L: Holy, gracious, God,

Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

Together, at this table, you have offered us life and by your grace, we accept the life you offer.

We give you thanks in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

C: Amen.

Sending

+Blessing

L: Go out into the world in the joy and peace of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Care for God's redeemed creation; follow Christ as children of the light;

make disciples by your life and words; and glorify God by your dedication and love;

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord's face shines upon you with grace and mercy,

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

+Hymn: *ELW 384 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*



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!

+Ringing of the Bell

+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

C: We will, by the grace of God.

Postlude: *Trumpet Tune in D*

David N. Johnson

Worship Participants

Presider/Preacher:	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Musicians:	Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
Organist	Tim Buendorf
Special Music:	Josh Countryman
Lector/Intercessor:	David Steenson
Communion Servers:	Pastor Eric, Cathy and Roger Shromoff, Charlie Robbins
Ushers:	Steve and Ann Barnes, Wayne Peterson
AV Engineer:	Ethan Alberg



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For more information about House of Prayer Lutheran Church,
please refer to our website: **hoplc.org**
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