

**Service of the Word April 19, 2020 - 2nd Sunday of Easter
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Durham, NC**

Prelude – We Walk By Faith, setting by David Cherwien

In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone, Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song – That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright 384

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**
**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**
**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the day

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. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

" Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had

sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Psalm: Psalm 16

Psalm Refrain

In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

Refrain

¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other."

²All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.

³But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

⁴I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips. **Refrain**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

⁸I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. **Refrain**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for- | evermore. **Refrain**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

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, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 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. 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, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

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. 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."

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.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – We Walk by Faith

635

The Apostles' 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those struggling physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need especially Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, Sonja and Charlie, JoAnn and Leon, Judy, Janet, Carol and Jim, Bill, Joyce, Barbara, Ida, Karen, Debbie, Larry, Blanche, Leslie, Jim, and Kaaren. We lift up to you family and friends we now name aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith. Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray:

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all thing: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. . For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us; renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Gove 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.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father,  Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn – Thine Is the Glory

376

Postlude – Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, setting by Robert A. Hobby

Prayer of the Church (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, Sonja and Charlie Bock, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Judy Schlegel, Janet Ravert, Carol and Jim Sackett, Bill Wilson, Joyce Veazey, Barbara Anderson, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Larry Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Jim Klausman, Kaaren Johanson

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - drop a note in the offering plate, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Byron Franzen (brother of David Franzen), Laura and Mike Smith (sister and her husband by Carol Sackett), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), JoAnn Sackett (daughter-in-law of Carol and Jim Sackett), Kate Genaitis, Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Tom and Mary Jakubus (friend of Deb Tabert), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Tristan and Hailey Hunter (relatives of Deb Tabert), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Bob and Ellie DeVries, Lenore Carnes (aunt of Pat Casper), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Al Deardorff (cousin-in-law of Marlene Coulter), LeRoy Farmer (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Gary Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Michele and Matthew [mother and baby] (relatives of Pat Casper), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson)

Early this year, we started our annual appeal in support of "**SING for Joy**" a radio program of sacred music following the liturgical year, aired by WCPE 89.7 FM and their website "theclassicalstation". That appeal, a part of St. Paul's evangelical efforts, started slowly this year. It has been slowed even more by the onset of the corona virus and the much needed personal separation guideline. A few new donors would be much appreciated to help us reach our \$1,000 goal so that St. Paul's can be named on the air, as a sponsor. Donors should send a check written to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and delivered to Hitch Havill at 12075 Morehead, Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

St. Paul's Readers – Even during these times everyone is encouraged to continue to read the book selection each month. Plans are in the works to accommodate discussing all selections when the group resumes meeting.

April: How Starbucks Changed My Life by Michael Gil

May: The Tatooist of Auschwitz: A Novel by Heather Morris

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES April 19, 26 and May 3

You are invited to join other members of St. Paul's in a Zoom meeting on Sunday afternoons from **2:30 to 3:30**. Imam Abdul Waheed, Muslim chaplain to Duke University students, will be teaching us about the role of holy scripture in Islamic faith life. Each class will have time for questions and discussion. We hope you will be able to join us as we learn and grow in understanding.

Topic: St. Paul's Sunday school

Time: This is a recurring meeting 2:30 to 3:30 April 19, April 26, May 3, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2333662200?pwd=cmZBUTByQ0JUS3Q0dmczTDhGdVhsZz09>

Meeting ID: 233 366 2200

Password: 006510

If you need any technical advice about Zoom, and how to connect, feel free to contact Bee Ellertson, bellertson@icloud.com, 919-451-4801.

Food Items Needed

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church has long served community breakfasts, and in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, is handing out to-go breakfasts and lunches to food-insecure neighbors. They are requesting extra assistance from other local churches to meet the increased essential needs for meals. The following items are needed on an ongoing-basis: small bags of chips, peanut butter and jelly, granola bars, small water bottles, sandwich-size and gallon-size ziplock bags, individually-wrapped meat snacks, individual coffee creamers, to-go coffee cups with lids, individual packets of sugar, salt, and pepper. Items can be dropped off at St. Joseph's (1902 W Main St) on M/W/F mornings between 7:30-8:30 am, or email Pastor Ali to arrange a pick-up. If you have any questions, let Pastor Ali know (ahw22@duke.edu). Thank you!

The National Lutheran Choir is hosting a live, virtual event, ***How Can I Keep from Singing***, on **Sunday, April 19, at 5pm our time**.

To participate, simply go to www.nlca.com on your computer, phone, or tablet. Audience members will be able to comment, interact, and sing with us in real time.

Music has the power to bring communities together, even in this time of social distancing. Music heals and connects us. It restores and rejuvenates hope. We're living through a time when we need healing and hope more than ever. Our virtual gathering place has no limits. All are welcome, and all can participate. Share in the power of music and sing with us!

- NLC had April 19, 2020 reserved for its annual Gala. But the global pandemic made us ask what we could do to help provide comfort and healing for our community—and our world—at a time of great suffering and loss.
- So, we're sharing beloved music, making new music, singing together, and telling stories...just like communities do when they need each other.
- To be sure, NLC needs the financial support of its followers more than ever to make it through this calamitous time. And, while we will briefly share an opportunity to give, this is not fashioned as a fundraising event.
- It's really easy to participate. Just go to www.nlca.com on your computer, phone, or tablet.