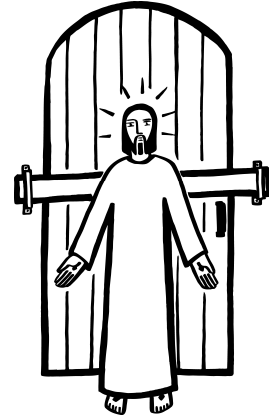


Second Sunday of Easter - April 27, 2025
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
10:00 am Contemporary Worship



PRELUDE - *words for following*

All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises

Paul Baloche

You lived, you died,
You said in three days you would rise;
You did, you're alive.
You rule, you reign,
You said you're coming back again;
I know that you will
And all the earth will sing your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.

You took, you take our sins away, O God.
You give, you gave your life away for us.
You came down, you saved us through the cross;
Our hearts are changed because of your great love.

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

stand as able

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Herb Brokering - ELW 377

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Weeping be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

GREETING (*adapted from ELW Service of the Word*)

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things.

You spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

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.

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.

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. Amen

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is Here

Greg Ronning

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

God's Word is spoken and heard; we are set free.

A light unto our path; we all can see.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

God's presence to have and to hold in the bread and the wine.

The feast of victory, God's love divine.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

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

All the people of God are singing forever, Amen!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.

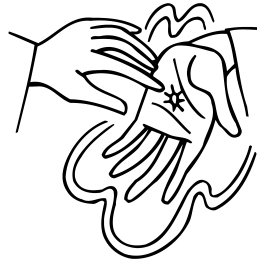
Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

Al-le-lu-ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. O God of life,

**you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son.
By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be
the body 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.**



be seated

First Lesson - Acts 5:27-32

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM - Psalm 118:14-29 - *read responsively*

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ “This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ **Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ **The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING - Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Celtic Alleluia" (ELW 174)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL - John 20:19-31

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

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

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

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

Praise to you, O Christ.

be seated

ANTHEM - *words for following*

The Peace That Passes All Understanding

Debby Kerner Rettino

chorus:

The peace that passes all understanding will rule in your heart today.
The peace that passes all understanding will rule in your heart today.
All you have to do is yield and give your life away.
The peace that passes all understanding will rule in your heart today.

The Lord is standing with outstretched arms, calling you to his side,
Wanting to give you life eternal if in him you will abide,
If you will only ask him to come inside;
Just open up your heart to him and take down your foolish pride.
The Master is calling out to you to walk with him in the light,

Desiring to ease you of all your burdens and make all your wrongs aright,
Just asking you to rest in the Father's strength and might.
Jesus' yoke is very easy and his burden on you is light.

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SERMON

stand as able



Peace, My Friend

Ray Repp

Chorus:

Peace I leave with you, my friends:
Shalom my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends,
I give to you, so you can give to others, too.

To share God's love is why I came,
To show God's kindness without end.
Go now my friends and do the same,
Until we meet again. Peace I leave . . .

Take my hand and be at peace,
The Spirit of our love I send;
And with this love you will be free,
Until I come again. Peace I leave . . .

With this love you all will know,
That loneliness is at an end,
Rejoice my people though I go
For I will come again. Peace I leave . . .

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RESPONSE TO THE WORD

We confess our faith together:

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**

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful and just God,

we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill us with joy, and inspire us to live for others.

Amen

PRAYER SONG

The Spirit Intercedes For Us

Dakota Road (ELW s180)

The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express, oh.

The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express, oh.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities (*current issues of concern may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PRAYER SONG

The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express, oh.
The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express, oh.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

COMMUNION GREETING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night 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,

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Lamb of God

Sara Thomsen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, give us your peace,
Give us your peace.

COMMUNIION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Communion is continuous; lectern side communes first, followed by pulpit side.

Grape juice is available in filled glasses; gluten free wafers are available if requested.

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNIION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Let us pray together. Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The triune God , who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

Amen

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

Samuel Medley / ELW 619 / arr. Keviv Belille

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his Church in love.

He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.

interlude/ key change

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord.

Thanks be to God!

