Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Easter

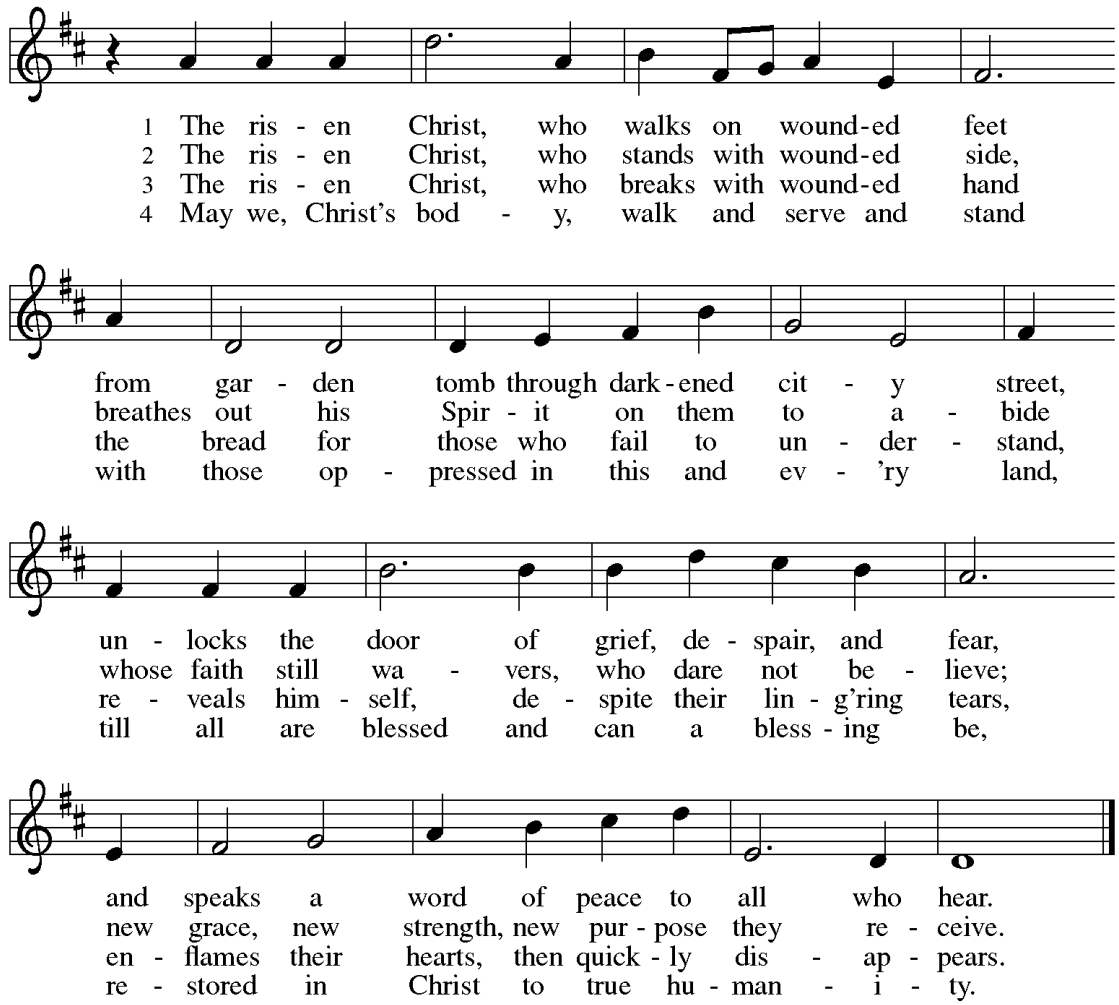
April 19, 2020

Introduction

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

We gather each week to worship and pray on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples. For thousands of years they have walked on the land and paddled the waters of the Salish Sea. We are grateful to the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for their stewardship of these lands and adjoining waters throughout the ages.

Gathering hymn: The Risen Christ (v. 1 and 4) https://youtu.be/iD4ua_xOoog



This is the Feast. https://youtu.be/v48x0x_bVDo

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: Acts2:14a, 22-32 https://youtu.be/xAH3IFbJqos

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

22 "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— 23 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. 24 But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 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; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' 29 "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. 30 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. 31 Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm Prayer

Gracious God, your goodness surpasses everything else. Uphold us day after day, and teach us night after night, that we may follow in the path of life and be filled with resurrection joy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 150

Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; praise God in the mighty firmament.

Praise God for his mighty acts; praise God for exceeding greatness

Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lyre and harp.

Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe.

Praise God with resounding cymbals; Praise God with loud-clanging cymbals

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord; Hallelujah!

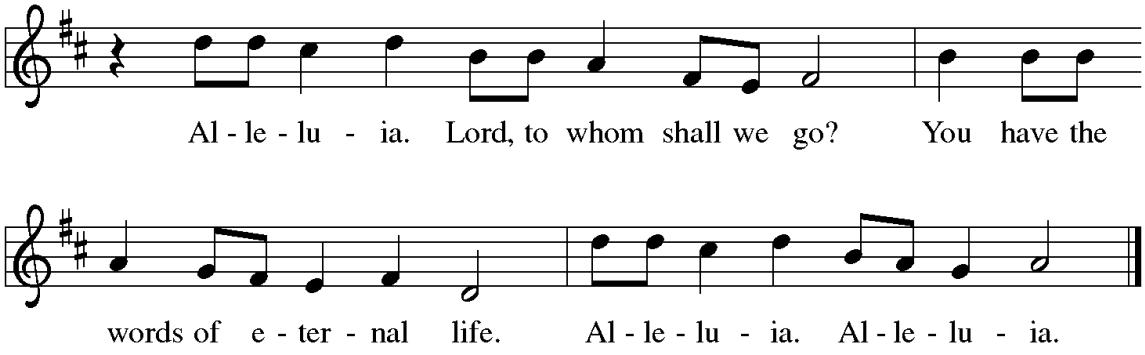
Psalm Prayer

Great and glorious God, unite our praise with the praise of all creation: singing your mighty acts with every breath, playing music to your name with all our instruments, joining the dance of stars and planets with our whole bodies; 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.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 https://youtu.be/KjHRoKvu9lw

3 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, 4 and into
an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are
being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the
last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,
7 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. 8 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, 9 for you are
receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation https://youtu.be/CyRNMkYF9II



Gospel: John 20:19-31 https://youtu.be/quEoEAhtuxM

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.

Children's Message from Bishop Susan https://youtu.be/36wHnNKHzgA

Reflection

A reflection on today's Gospel by Rev. Frank Honeycutt

I was half-listening to the radio in our garage and don't even remember the name of the show, but I suddenly perked up when someone asked: "What advice would you give your high-school self?" Perhaps you're like me and there's not much of that era you care to revisit, but the question piqued my imagination.

I went on a bike ride. Upon returning, the question was still rummaging around and addressing my 17-year-old adolescence. After naming the obvious *(save more money and don't blow it on stupidity),* I was ready to consider more subversive suggestions. Advice like this: *Show more vulnerability*. *Let go of always trying to be in control of outcomes.*

And then this: *Dare to show your wounds to others you trust. Everybody's got scars; there's power in sharing them.*

Dare to show your wounds to others you trust. Everybody's got scars; there's power in sharing them.

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The disciples are together on that first Easter evening (John 20:19) behind locked doors. I don't blame them—crucifixions were contagious. Suddenly, Jesus stands among them and says, "Peace be with you."

Then he raises his tunic and points to the recent wound on his side. He pulls back sleeves and invites a close gander at his palms. *"Then* the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (20:20). And not a second sooner. It's an important Easter detail.

Near the end of *The Odyssey*, Homer's ancient tale, Odysseus finally returns home. The family nurse, Eurycleia, begins to bathe a man whom she thinks is some stranger. Only when she sees Odysseus' old hunting wound does recognition occur. From "Book Nineteen" of the old epic: "This was the scar the old nurse recognized; she traced it under her spread hands, then let it go, and into the basin fell the lower leg. … Her eyes filled up with tears; her throat closed, and she whispered, 'Oh yes! *You are Odysseus!* Ah, dear child! I could not see you until now.' "

Jesus showed them his wounds. The disciples rejoiced when they saw their old friend. They could not see him until then.

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This old Easter evening reunion suggests a vital purpose for congregations. One test of a faithful community is to follow Jesus' lead here. How will church members safely reveal old wounds to one another? Present scars?

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands … I will not believe," Thomas said (20:25). Unconvinced of Easter's promises, perhaps this is what "Thomases" outside (and inside) Christ's church are searching for—*authenticity*.

Far more than assembling with relative strangers for an hour each week, church unites us in community with precisely what we have in common. Not our potential, social standing or even our shared Lutheran theology, but centrally our scars, and how Jesus forms and calls a congregation to discover and help bear the wounds of others.

He stands in the middle of the community with palms outstretched, wounds wide open for examination. "Peace be with you," Jesus says. And when *we* share this peace with each other before communion each week, it's far more than a way of saying, "Good morning, so good to see you. How about those Clemson Tigers?"

The liturgical practice of "Sharing the peace" resurfaced in most Lutheran congregations with the advent of the Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) but stretches back to the first decades of the early church. In this ancient worship gesture, we offer profound hope and reconciliation, daring to share life's agonies and joys. Afterward, the church passes around body and blood. Ponder the implications of such an earthy exchange.

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Jesus exhibited scars even on Easter. And so we come to terms with our own—a large part of one's identity. As we share old and fresh wounds safely in community, perhaps Christ is saying to us: "Ah, dear children. I could not see you. I could not see you until now."

The body of Christ is most visible when the scars come out.

Frank G. Honeycutt Author of 10 books, Frank Honeycutt is an ELCA pastor living in Walhalla, S.C. His collection of fictional short stories, *God's Scorekeeper,* will be released this fall by Cascade Books.

Hymn of the day: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing (v. 1, 5, 6, 7) https://youtu.be/_BkSdtIJ_m8

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
that they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless, but believing be."
Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Separated by physical distance, but uplifted together by the promised hope of healing, resurrection, and new life, we join with the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A moment of silence to reflect

- Although we shut the physical doors of our homes during these unprecedented times, O God, open the doors that we close through fearing those who worship you in different ways or live in different places. Guide us to unity and harmony with people around the world and within our local communities, so that we may recognize our commonalities, respect our differences, and work in hope together. Grant vision to our bishops, Susan and Greg, as they liaise with religious, political, and community leaders in our nation and province in these times of challenge. Unite us all in seeking and following your will.

  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

- Open the doors of response for our political, civic, and healthcare leaders, that they may have wisdom, courage, and humility to carry out their tasks and to make extraordinarily difficult decisions on behalf of us all.

  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

- Open the paths we ignore when we prioritize financial gain and our own convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire us to care deeply for the world you have made, so that living things might thrive in the fullness you intend and for which we long.

  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

- Open the doors of our hearts to all those who work on the frontlines and behind the scenes in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant grace and peace to the sick and their families, to healthcare and social workers, to building staff, to all essential workers in our community, to authorities and to volunteers.

  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

- Open our ears to hear your greeting of peace as you arrive inside the doors of those who are isolated by fear, by disease, by homelessness, by distance, and by circumstance. May we hear also the cries of those in pain, those who are secluded, the lonely, those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, and grief. Embolden us to respond to their needs. We pray for all in need and especially for those we name now before you.....

  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

- Open us to the Spirit's creative presence, that as your people we may find ways to reach out, to be persistent in extending love, and to be bold and faithful in sharing Good News in this broken world.

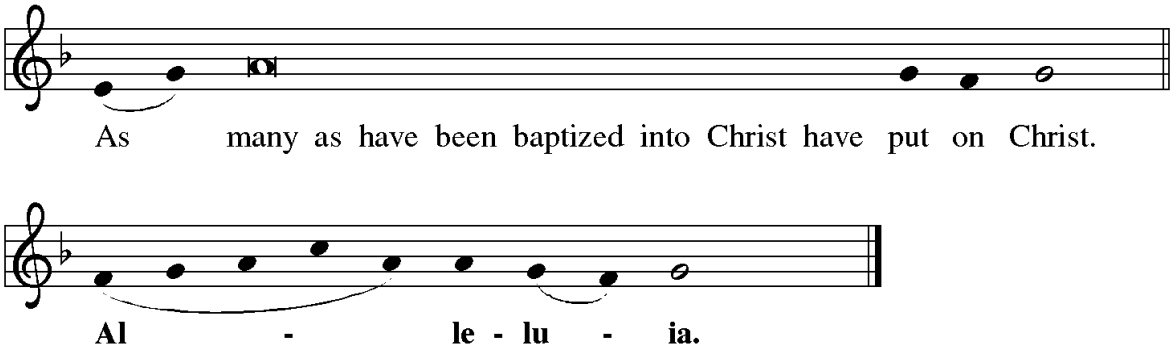
  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

- Open the way to eternal life, as we remember those who have died in faith. We remember in particular today Olavus and Laurentius Petri, 16th century renewers of the church in Sweden. Continue to renew us all. Free us from the fear of death, and embolden us to embrace the peace that you have given and have promised.

  Loving and merciful God, hear our prayer.

With faith and confidence in your ever-present love, we place all for whom we pray today into your eternal care, through the Risen Christ. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism: Pascal Blessing https://youtu.be/ToEAzGGBlEc



On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking spices, which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

Sending Hymn: Thine is the Glory

O God for our redemption you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin so that we may rise to live with Christ forever; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord Almighty bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in his peace. **Amen.**

Go in Peace; Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

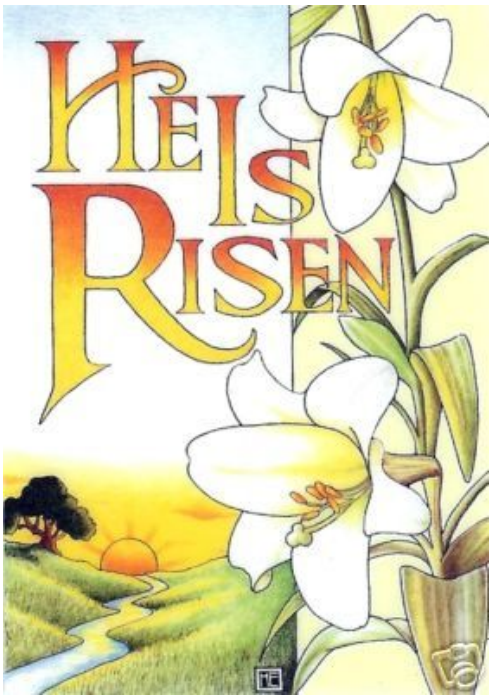


Image on front cover: detail of lead glass window in Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire Church in Saint Ouen, France, depiction St. Thomas ("VIDE MANUS MEAS" – see my hands), image by G. Freihalter. This image is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

These people shared their gifts in the creation of this Passion Sunday home worship devotion.

Bulletin Preparation	**Intercessor**	**Technical Assistant**
Shelley McLaughlin	Lois Grierson	Jason Assam
Musician	**Worship Curator and Cantor**	**Lector**
Sonja Koruga	Jim Berger	Gail Berger

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Announcements:

April 20: Your Member Care Committee is meeting at 11:30am via Teleconference

April 21: Your Church Council is meeting on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30pm via Zoom

April 22: EARTH DAY – This year is the 50th Anniversary! watch your mailboxes for a video from Gloria Dei as we mark this day not only as global citizens but as Christians. Here is a good read, co-authored by Rev. Leah Schade an ELCA pastor and eco-theologian, "6 Lessons Coronavirus can teach us about Climate Change"

April 23: Synod Zoom meeting, **7-8PM** for congregational Lay Leaders, **8-9pm** for Treasurers and Bookkeepers

April 23: Synod Zoom Ministerial Meeting for pastors, **10-noon**

Don't forget to 'like' our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GDLCNV to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

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Email: pastorgd@shaw.ca
Administrator: Shelley Meglaughlin
Music Director: Sonja Koruga
Church Council Chair: Candace Storm
Church Council Vice- Chair: Ken Parkinson
Church Council members: Shelley Meglaughlin
Maureen Kerfoot
Kathleen Stoll
Gail Berger

Church office is open Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 1:30pm