

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

April 24, 2022 – Second Sunday of Easter/Care of Creation

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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INTRODUCTION

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

O God, you have claimed us in baptism through the waters of Creation:
we join the Atlantic and Pacific, the Great Lakes and Dow Lake, in giving you thanks and praise.

O God, you have called us to live in unity and love with our neighbors:
we join in worship with all creatures that walk, crawl, slither, fly, or swim.

O God, you nourish the earth with water and snow, and till the soil with frost and thaw:
we come before you to be cultivated by your Word.

O God, the planets and solar systems and galaxies belong to you:
we come before you with great humility, amazed that you are even mindful of us.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forms the Earth,
redeems all Creation,
and sustains life. **Amen.**

God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
in the beginning when the Earth was formless,
your Spirit swept over the waters.
You spoke, and the wind of your Word fashioned order:
darkness and light; sea and sky and soil;
sun and moon; birds and fish; creatures, plants, and people;

and with a word, you took delight.
You looked upon your Creation and called it good.

After you poured out the floods of judgment,
you set your bow in the clouds,
a promise to every living creature that water is life.
You spoke, and the sky sang with all the colors of your covenant:
for cardinals and foxes, bumblebees and tortoises, Noah and his family,
and all descendants of your first act of redemption.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
We marvel at your Creation, for it is good!

At Jacob's well, the woman from Samaria
witnessed the water of eternal life from your beloved Son.
In baptism, your Spirit brings water to life.
You speak, and your children are born
from the womb of your mercy.
You wrap us in the grace of your never-ending love
and raise us to share that love with all you have made.
You look upon your Creation and call us good.

Forgiven in the waters of baptism,
We praise you, Creator of all things.
We worship you, Redeemer of all that lives.
We serve you, Sustainer of your people in every land. Amen.



GATHERING SONG *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (ELW 389)*

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

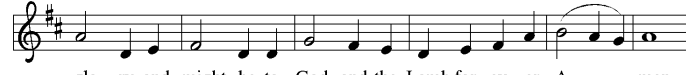

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of


God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was


slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Source of All, throughout your good creation we hear resurrection: percussive spring rains; the hymnody of birds; silent explosions of bursting buds. Yet we also see your wounded hands in the clotted sea, the bleeding sky, and the lacerated earth.

Open our ears with renewed awe for the splendor that unfolds around us and renewed compassion for your cries for help. Then calm our fears and fill us with your peace, that we, too, might become your risen body, overflowing with grace to transform and renew, until together with all that you have borne, we join in one great anthem of New Life. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

A reading from Acts.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "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." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And 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.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

A reading from Revelation.

⁴John 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, ⁵and 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, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! 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.

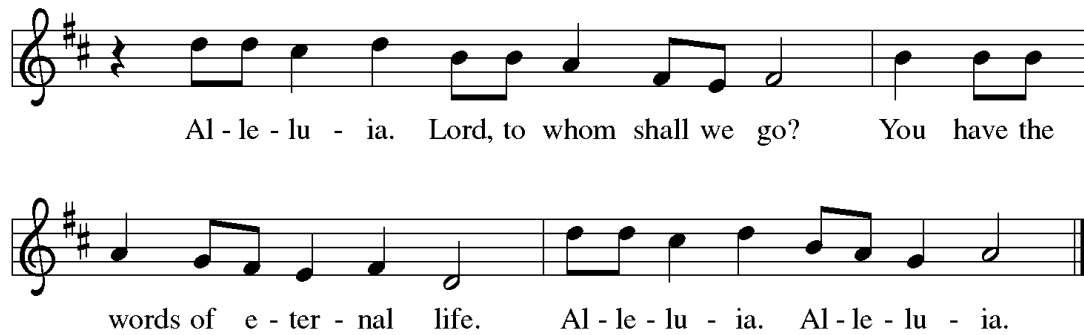
So it is to be. Amen.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)



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

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

Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379)



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
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Dear God, as we gather together today in person and online, we thank you for the opportunity to meet in this way and to share the Good News of Easter. Thank you for this warm church family, no matter where each of us may be this week. Please help us also to reach out to our neighbors here in Athens and around the world, and help us to always remember that we are all part your family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of Comfort, thank you for the warm days of spring, and thank you also for the rainy and colder days of spring. Each day is truly a blessing. As we deal with final exams, work problems, family responsibilities and other challenges this week, thank you for being there with us so we are never alone. Thank you for being with us at all times as you help us and guide us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of Love, as we go through our daily lives, help us to be guided by Christ's example so that we might be kind and caring to everyone we meet. And please help us to remember that while

we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, so many people live in danger and in fear in our world. Please be with the people of Ukraine and those facing war and violence anywhere in the world. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families, and bless our veterans. And please help our leaders to work for peace and cooperation. We ask you to also bless all refugees and help them to find comfort, respect, and acceptance. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

No update this week

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!



SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Susan Urano; Livestream: Doug Debrick Greeter: Sue Ellen Miller; Time with Children: Jana Hovland; Acolyte: Meena Juedes*

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Sovereign of the universe, you set the parameters of the sea and renew the earth with light from the ages and rain from the heavens. Receive the gifts we bring as we care for oceans, lakes, and all habitats, to the glory of God in the name of Christ our peace.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

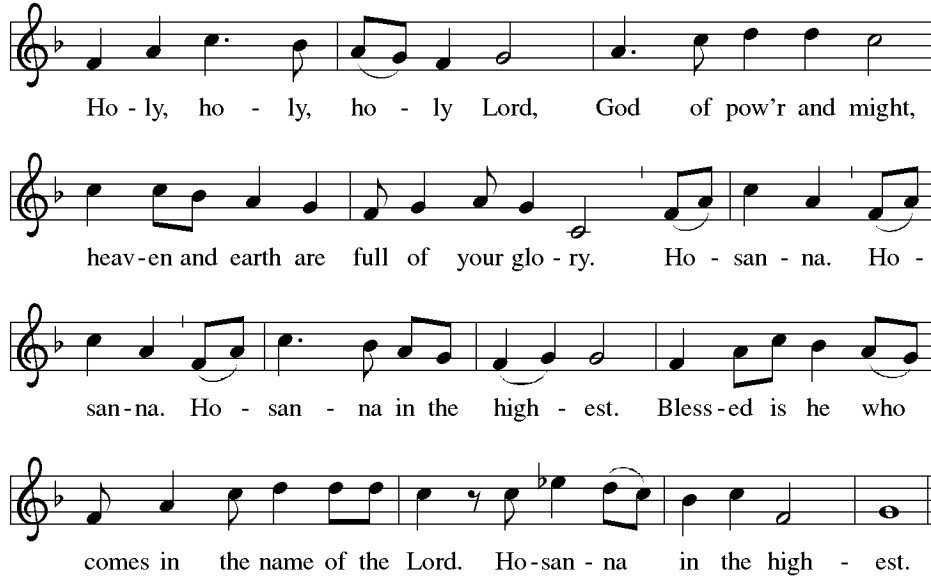
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who orders the cosmos, sets the waters' boundaries, gives the
breath of life to all creatures great and small, and empowers

storms to wash over and renew the Earth.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on Earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, your throne is centered in the midst of all Creation, the very source of all life, and from which comes all restoration.

Blessed are you for quasars and pulsars, for novas and nebulas, for distant galaxies and nearby asteroids.

Blessed are you for the mysteries of the cosmos and the wonder it inspires as we contemplate our smallness against the vastness in which our island Earth floats.

Blessed are you for whales and krill, for eagles and sparrows, for tigers and meerkats. Blessed are you for the diversity of life and the joy it offers as we consider our place alongside all animals with whom we share our ecosystem.

Blessed are you for vast oceans and small ponds, for the Great Lakes and salty seas, for beaver dams and coral reefs. Blessed are you for all sources of water and the thrill they provide as we celebrate our dependence on water for work, play, and quenching our daily thirst.

Blessed are you for lightning and wind, for hailstone and snowflake, for raindrop and rainbow. Blessed are you for the fascination of storms and the power they display as we fathom our reliance on weather patterns that bring cleansing and renewing gifts to Earth.

Blessed are you for Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate, through whom all things have come into existence and through whom all things will receive rebirth.

In the night in which 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.

With this bread and cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Almighty Provider, this meal reminds us that the consequence of sin is brokenness, yet in the resurrection of the Lamb, what was once broken is now being healed. Fill us with urgency to be agents of that healing.

Unite us through the bread and cup we share, that trusting your redemptive work in all Creation, we may be better partners of renewal as we await our Lord's return.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of the Cosmos, breath of life, source of nature's power, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. In this meal of bread and wine, we are reminded of our place within Creation.

We are merely one piece of a diverse landscape which you dream into existence every day.

Send us now filled with your goodness, striving for the better world you envision, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GODSPEED

BLESSING

The God of all Creation bless you.

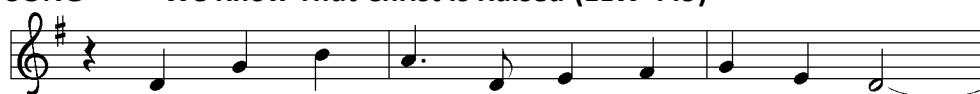
The God of stars and tides keep watch over you.

The God of light and love bring you and all Creation peace.

In the name of the + Triune God.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *We Know That Christ Is Raised (ELW 449)*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Care for Creation.

Thanks be to God.