

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH EASTER 2

APRIL 16, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

In the waters of Baptism, we have passed over
from death to life with Jesus Christ
and we are a new creation.

**For this saving mystery, and for this water,
let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:

**through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.**

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood,
You opened wide the seas for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gates of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm the troubled waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

We thank you, risen Christ,
For these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 379 NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain
Love lives again, that with the dead has been
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**In the grave they laid Him, love by hatred slain
Thinking that He would never wake again
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain
He that for three days in the grave had lain
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain
Your touch can call us back to life again
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

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.

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.**

WORD

ACTS 2:14a, 22-32

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. '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.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16

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

I have said to the Lord, ‘you are my Lord; my good above all other.’

All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,

upon those who are noble among the people.

Those who run after other gods

shall have their troubles multiplied.

I will not pour out drink-offerings to such gods,

never take their names upon my lips.

O Lord you are my portion and my cup;

it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;

indeed, i have a rich inheritance.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

my heart teaches me night after night.

I have set the Lord always before me;

because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;

my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave,

nor let your holy one see the pit.

You will show me the path of life.

in your presence there is fullness of joy,

and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1 PETER 1:3-9

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 honour 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

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. 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.”

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN: ELW # 635 WE WALK BY FAITH

**We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."**

**We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:**

**For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.**

**And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your
never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

MEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these
gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,

out of silence and emptiness you created the heavens and the earth.

The oceans sing your praise. The rivers chant your glory.

Out of Abraham and Sarah's dead end, you made promises,

you granted laughter, you brought forth descendants to continue your story.

Out of the deathly power of oppression and slavery you liberated your people and blessed them with water, bread, wine.

Out of their lifeless wandering from your justice and mercy

you sent them prophets who sang poems that serenaded them back to you.

In your great compassion for every tribe and nation, you sent Jesus,

to bring everyone out of the tomb of hatred and sin and into a life of your love.

He fully embodied your compassion,

lifting up the poor, raising up the lowly, forgiving the sinner, suffering and dying so that no one need suffer injustice and fear anymore.

Out of the death of his own tomb,

you raised him up so your story of love will not end.

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.

Together with one voice, we celebrate the paschal mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit to fill us with the joy of the resurrection.
Grant us hope beyond our comprehension.
Bless these gifts of bread and wine,
so that the endless life and love of Jesus may dwell in us,
and flow from us through acts of love for our neighbours.

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,
we give you more praise than we can utter,
as we await that great day when the feast of your love
has no walls, no exceptions, no end,
when we gather with Christ, by the Spirit, and know life in you:
love that cannot die,
love that enlivens our weary bones,
love that exceeds every hope and dream,
love, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and
keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of your Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 389 CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

His cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love drowned in death shall never die.

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift and war,
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth
can feel the Spirit, hear the call.
And find the way, the life, the truth
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE