

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL

The Second Sunday of Easter

APRIL 7, 2024

PRELUDE *Ethan Kwan*

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.

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

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 #363 COME YOU FAITHFUL RAISE THE STRAIN

**Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought his Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection!**

**Neither could the gates of death nor the tomb's dark portal
nor the watchers nor the seal hold him as a mortal.
but today among your own you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.**

**"Alleluia!" now we cry to our Lord immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal.
Alleluia! with the Son God the Father praising;
Alleluia! yet again to the Spirit raising.**

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.**

KYRIE

Congregation:

Leader:

Refrain S184

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. ***Refrain***

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. ***Refrain***

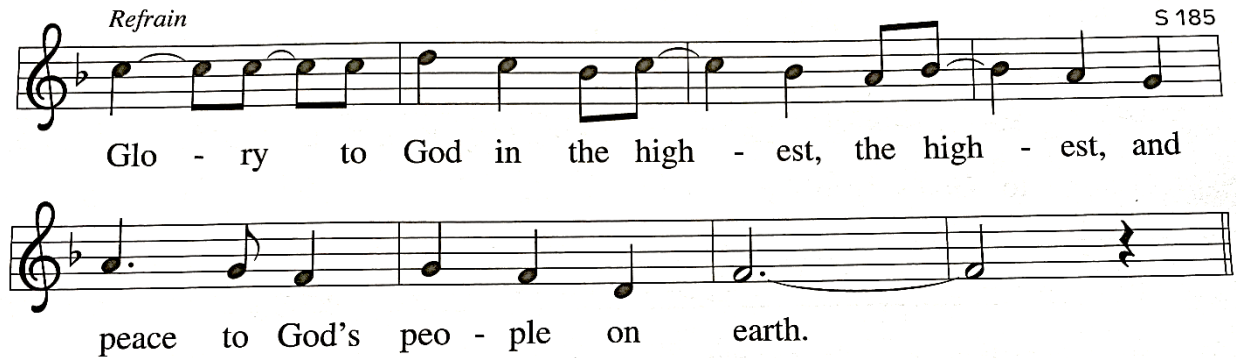
For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. ***Refrain***

For your Spirit to guide, that you center our lives in the water and the word;
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. ***Refrain***

HYMN OF PRAISE

Congregation:

Refrain S 185



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Leader:

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you,
We give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

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. Amen. Amen. **Refrain x 2**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection.
By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the
resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

ACTS 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 133

How good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon, flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

1 JOHN 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188



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



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

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 was made 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.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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 OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray
for the church, the world, and all those in need
of good news.

A brief silence.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the
disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our
faith is renewed and we witness to your love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. Call all hearts and imaginations to works of compassion and healing. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, South Sudan, Israel, Palestine, and all places where corruption and violence rules.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain: the afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve; today we remember especially all we name before you.....

pause

Assure them of your promises.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you.

Grant us your peace amid our fears.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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 the 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 any more.

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.

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"*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Thanks be to God.

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

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

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

HYMN: ELW # 535 HALLELUJAH! WE SING YOUR PRAISES

Refrain: Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness. x2

**Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread;
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger. x2 *Refrain***

**Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt;
strong in faith, free of doubt,
tell to all the joyful Gospel. x2 *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Ethan Kwan*