



Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Grace Lutheran, Franklin
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Hermitage
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Greenville

The Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020

Service of the Word

Significance of the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Hymn Improvisations on *Woodlands*

(Cherwien et al)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for
the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and
aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.
All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin
and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears
and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:
 who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
 Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Easter Dialogue

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We are illumined by the brightness of his rising.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Death has no more dominion over us.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

A reading from Acts:

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

(The Psalm will be spoken in unison.)

- 1 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."**
- 2 All my delight is in the Godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- 3 But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.**
- 4 I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who hold my lot.**
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.**
- 8 I have set the LORD al-ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.**
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
- 11 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Peter:

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.
Alleluia.**

Gospel

John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

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.

The Sermon

Pastor Gary Nelson



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife, "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,
who 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

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. **Sung response.**



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

(Brief silence)

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael, our pastors, church council members, finance committee members, teachers, musicians and other leaders. **Sung response.**

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. We pray for our farmers, that your Earth be generous to them and your world be thankful to them for feeding us. **Sung response.**

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. We pray for all leaders in the world, that they be able to work together in this time of global crisis for the good of all of your children of every nation and tongue. **Sung response.**

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief. We pray for those struggling with social distancing. We pray for those hurt through job losses and illness in this current crisis. We pray for those who are hungry. Help us to sustain the ministries that help feed people. **Sung response.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. We pray for all of those working in hospitals and other health-care facilities and nursing homes. Protect them, keep them from harm, and use their hands for your healing. **Sung response.**

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith, especially Donald. Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. **Sung response.**

Are there others for whom we should pray?

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

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

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.**

Announcements

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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

Postlude Hymn improvisation on *Gaudeamus paritior* (Fedak)

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Serving Today

Presiding Ministers Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Pastor Judy Lamb, Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin
Pastor Gary Nelson, Hermitage
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville
Organist Maidene Hackett

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris, retired, Mercyhurst University
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

Please Pray For

Only first names are being used for privacy.

Please note that permission is needed to add anyone to the prayer list.

Health and Healing:

Barb
Belle
Dan
Dillon
Jan
Jeff
Jennifer
Jim
Joe
Judy
Kate
Ken
Melissa
Melodie
Patty
Paul
Rick
Ron

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Arline
Don
Roger



In Military Service

Chief Master Sergeant Thomas R McQuiston, US Air Force, Middle East
Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces