

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER | Service of the Word

First Lutheran Church, Lynn, MA

April 19, 2020



**In spite of all we have heard and all that 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 Lord 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 to worship!

Yes, *this is worship!* It is not the way any of us *want* it to be, but God is alive and present in this virtual gathering. God's work will still speak to us through the Holy Spirit, and we are still the Body of Christ, joined together in a fellowship of love, even if it is not in person.

Create a sacred space in your home.

Light a candle. Pour yourself a warm beverage. Welcome the presence of God into your dwelling. Set aside this time for worship as if you were in church. Put away the cell phone (unless you are watching on your cell phone!) Adopt a posture of prayer that works for you.

We will get through this.

This is temporary. This is not the "new normal." This may last several weeks, but we will be back together soon. We are blessed to be living in a time with technology that allows us to gather in this way. For that we can rejoice!

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Alleluias

Charles Callahan

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death,
let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new.

Newness scares us,

and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.

We have not listened to voices that challenge us.

We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions.

Our hearts are slow to believe your promises.

**Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear
the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The minister announces God's forgiveness, to which the assembly responds:
Amen.

The Risen Christ



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.



GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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

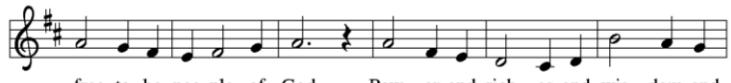
During the Sundays of Easter we sing this song of praise drawn from the rich imagery of God's victory over sin and death in the book of Revelation.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



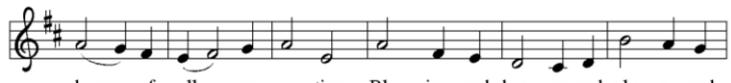
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



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



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



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



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd. "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

Psalm 16

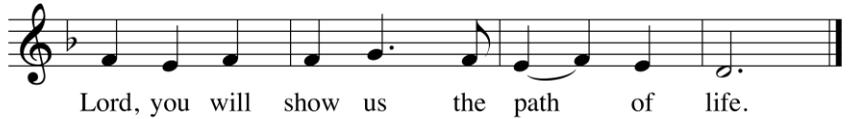
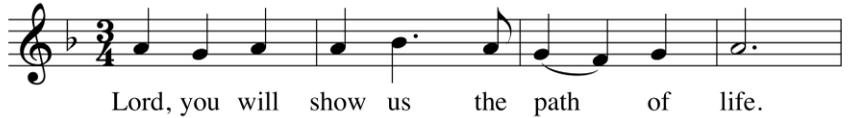
The psalms were the original prayer book of God's people and capture the full gamut of human emotion.

The cantors sing the refrain, which is repeated by the assembly. The choir sings the verses.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.



1. Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord." O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; you yourself who secure my lot.
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord before me always; with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
3. And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my flesh shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to hell, nor let your holy one see corruption.
4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand, bliss forever, at your right hand, bliss forever.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We stand to welcome Christ, the living word of God, in the gospel reading.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



Verse: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 because they were afraid, 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.

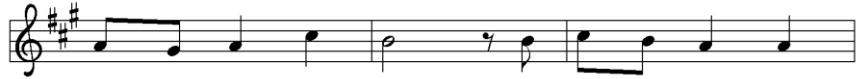
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk By Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

NICENE CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo which simply means "I believe."

By professing our faith with these ecumenical words, we are one with Christians all around the world, no matter what else might divide us.

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

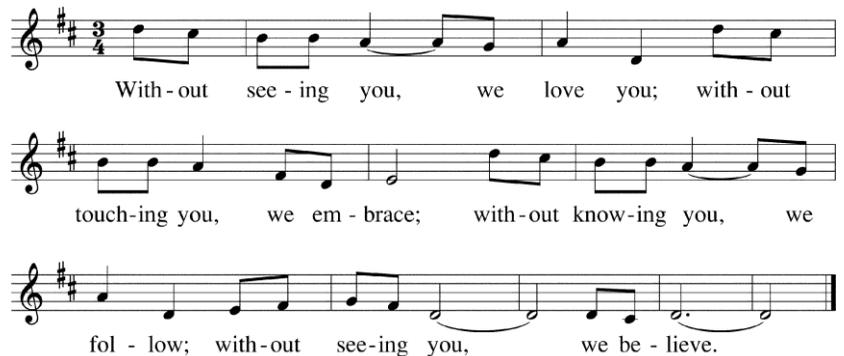
**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with 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

Throughout our prayer we sing this refrain:



With - out see - ing you, we love you; with - out
touch - ing you, we em - brace; with - out know - ing you, we
fol - low; with - out see - ing you, we be - lieve.

After each petition:

Protect _____, O God,
for we take refuge in you.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY

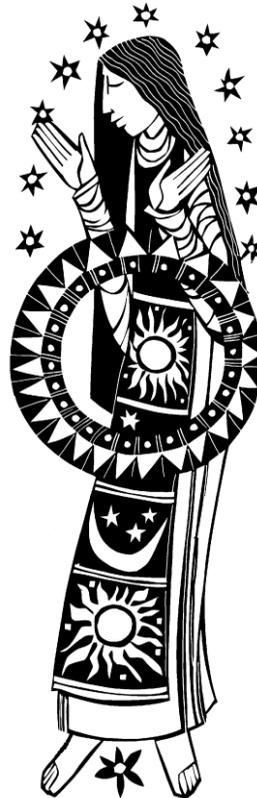
You are invited to make your offering online at www.flc-lynn.org/give or by mail. Please continue to give during this time to support the ongoing ministry of our congregation.

Lift Your Voice Rejoicing, Mary

Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary, Christ has risen from the tomb;
on the cross a suffering victim, now as victor he is come.
Whom your tears in death were mourning, welcome with your smiles
returning.
Let your alleluias rise!

Raise your weary eyelids, Mary, see him living evermore;
see his countenance, how gracious, see the wounds for you he bore.
All the glory of the morning pales before those wounds redeeming.
Let your alleluias rise!

Life is yours forever, Mary, for your light is come once more
and the strength of death is broken; now your songs of joy outpour.
Ended now the night of sorrow, love has brought the blessed morrow.
Let your alleluias rise.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission for the world

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Be at peace and share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Opus 9 no. 6
Hermann Schroeder

Join us for virtual coffee hour!

Following worship at 11:30 AM, you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour! If your computer has a camera and you'd like to use video chat, go to <https://zoom.us/j/3808184970> and follow the instructions. You may need to install a free piece of software. If you would like to call in on your phone, dial **(929) 205-6099** and enter meeting ID **380 818 4970**. It won't be as good as the Fireside Room, but it will allow us to check in!

Music notes

The prelude for today is a collection of pieces written by Charles Callahan, a contemporary American organist and composer. These pieces are based on different Gregorian chant melodies used for the Alleluia verses. Gregorian chant is named after Pope Gregory the Great (540 – 604) who, according to the legend, wrote most of the chant melodies and is still recognized as the patron saint of musicians, singers, students and teachers. Although Gregory oversaw extensive revisions to the liturgy and worship, most modern historians doubt that he wrote much, if any, of the chant melodies. However, most paintings and representations of Gregory show a dove on his shoulder representing the Holy Spirit whispering the melodies in his hear. Gregorian chant was the principal music heard in churches for almost 1,000 years. The postlude was written by the German organist and composer Hermann Schroeder (1904 – 1984). Much of Schroeder's music, including this piece, was written based on quartal harmony, in which chords are based on the interval of a fourth rather than traditional tertian harmony, where chords are based on the interval of a third.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation,
welcoming and serving all people.***

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