SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:30 AM

Introduction

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

+ Gathering +

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Gaudeamus Pariter

RINGING OF THE BELL

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The congregation may stand.

Alleluia, Christ has Risen! **He has risen indeed, Alleluia!** (x3)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the radiant sun of dawn, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen.**

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.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and with your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

Through lion's dens, wilderness exile, and fiery furnaces you protected and guided us. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.



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



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



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

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

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.**

GLORIA



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING I Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts.

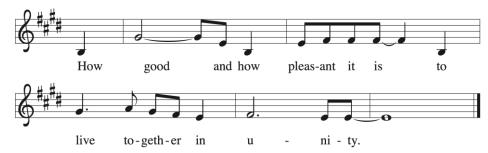
³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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. ³⁵They 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 Psalm 133

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm 133:1 Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Psalm Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹How good and how pleas- | ant it is,

when kindred live togeth- er in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar | of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore.

Refrain

READING 2 1 John 1:1-2:2

A reading from First John.

¹We 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—²this 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—³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand.



GOSPEL John 20:19-31

The 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."

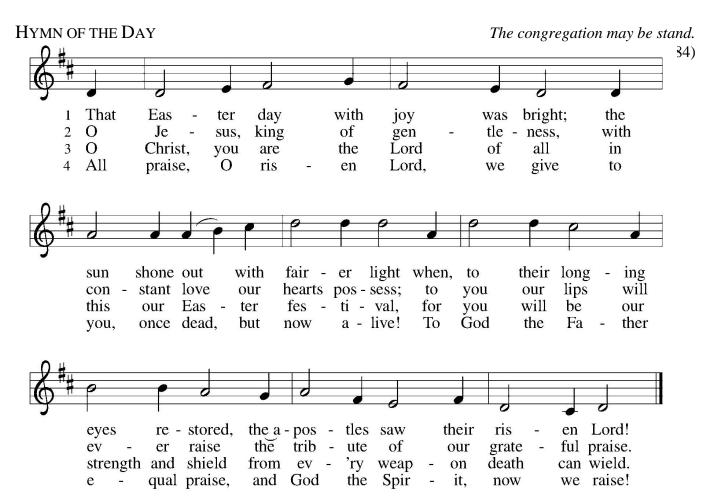
³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.

Vicar Alex Linn



Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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

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. You may assume a posture of prayer,

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. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. 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.

People of God, for what else do we pray for this day? You may share your prayers aloud or in the silence of your heart...

God of Grace.

hear our prayer.

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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Walk by Faith

by Karen Marrolli

We walk by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from Him who spoke as non e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod; but in His presence 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.

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

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand. Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together,

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

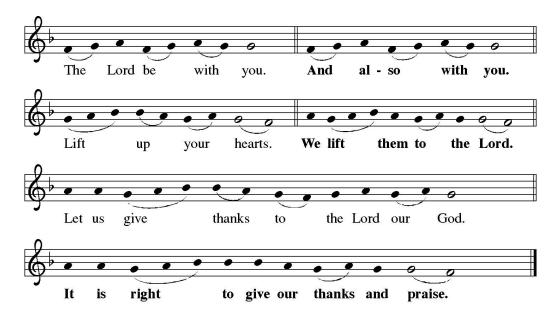
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

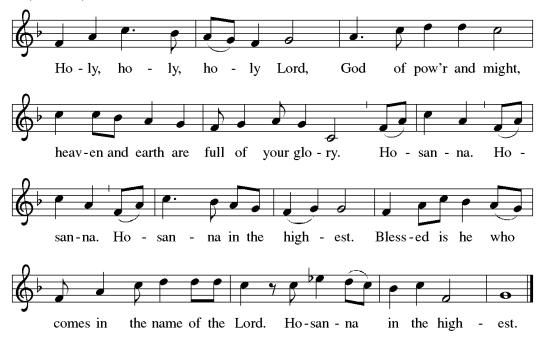
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

"... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:"

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and foreve



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

Our God 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

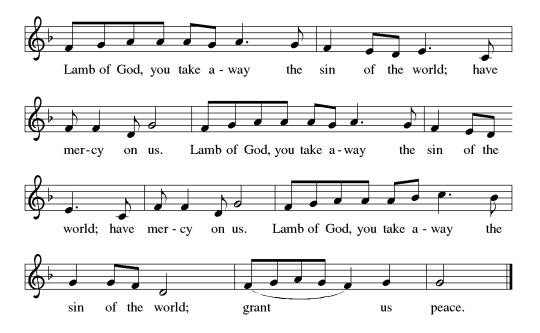
Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

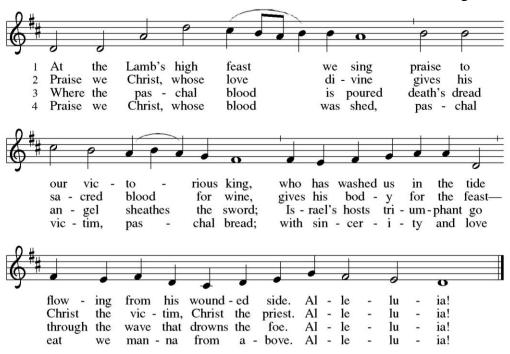
All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! Please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast, vs. 1, 2, 8 (ELW 362)



- 5 Mighty victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie; you have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

+ bless you now and always.

Amen.

The congregation may stand.



Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver. Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fuga Octavi Toni

by Johann Baptist Beyer

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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- Scripture readings from the NR

SERVING TODAY

Interim Minister:Vicar Alex LinnDirector of Youth & FamiliesEvergreen EdwardsDirector of Music:Luke Duroc-Danner

Cantor: Audrey Neace

Assisting Minister: Evergreen Edwards

Readers: Jan Wendel

Mae Loesel

Altar Guild: Jan Wendel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominate an Organization for EMF Consideration!

Each spring, the Extended Ministries Fund (EMF) Committee distributes approximately 5% of the EMF fund balance to organizations and causes that further the mission of our congregation. The amount to be dispersed this year is about \$12,000, and we are looking for your input on which organizations to consider. Please nominate an organization or cause that you believe furthers our congregation's new mission and vision. You can access the form in your e-news, complete it and e-mail it to Michel Hauser or you can complete the form in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate or give it to Jan in the church office. You may nominate multiple orgs/causes by submitting multiple forms (ask an usher for extras). We appreciate your input as well as your prayers for the EMF Committee as we receive these submissions, reflect, and discern how to steward the EMF Fund this year.

Take Care Packages for Migrant Families:

As an important part of our outreach ministry, St. John's is joining the Wilmette TAKE CARE project to help collect much-needed items for migrant families arriving here in our community. These families have little more than what they can carry. If you've seen recent reports from the city shelters, supplies for basic family necessities such as children's diapers and more are in short supply. We encourage members and families in our congregation to join this mission of helping others in need. There are many ways to help, from donating much-needed items to sorting the donations to packing health/wellness kits.

DONATIONS: You can find a list of supplies needed in your e-news. We have a drop box at the church, as well as the large colorful room on the lower level.

This project is a partnership with SaLT: Service and Learning Together.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Family & friends of Lorraine Beutelspacher, who died 3/6/24
- † Buckley Crist
- + Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24
- † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye Smith
- † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23
- † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away
- † Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † Congratulations to Dano Johnson & Emily Mock, who were married June 17, 2023
- † Family & friends of Richard Rusz, who died 6/6/23
- † Family & friends of Karen Daugherty, aunt of Erin Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23
- ⁺ Family & friends of Joan Schinler, who died 5/5/23
- † Sarah Rink, hospitalized after a fall 3/8/23
- † Family & friends of Ruby Winter, who died 1/10/23
- Steve Morrison, son of Tom & Judy Morrison, recovering from back surgery 1/1/23

- + Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Karen Marrolli (b. 1975) is an American composer and singer currently serving as the Director of Music Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She earned a DMA in Choral Conducting from Louisiana State University, and also leads the Zia Singers, Cantu Spiritus Chamber Choir, and Santa Fe Men's Camerata. Marrolli is a prolific singer-songwriter, and has many works published independently as well as through ECS.

Johann Baptist Peyer (1678-1733) was an Austrian organist and composer. Little is known of his early life except that he may have been educated at the Heiligenkreuz Abbey outside of Vienna. The first reference to Peyer attests that he was the organist and music teacher at the abbey beginning around 1698. Later, he worked for the Empress Eleonore beginning in 1712, and following her death, he stayed at the court chapel as a musician under the leadership of Johann Joseph Fux, author of the famous counterpoint treatise *Gradus ad Parnassum*. Peyer composed over 100 extant works for organ or other keyboard instruments as well as one choral work that still survives.