# EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9, 2023 9:30 AM

#### INTRODUCTION

Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb, we are filled with great joy. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

#### Prelude

Medley of Chorale-Preludes

J. S. Bach

"Christus Lag in Todesbanden" BWV 625

"Erstanden ist der Heilige Christ" BWV 628

"Christ ist Erstanden" BWV 627

"Little Prelude and Fugue in G major" BWV 557

# + Gathering +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introit

"Christ Triumphant"

Mark Patterson

RINGING OF THE BELL

At the sound of the bell, the congregation may stand and turn to face the cross at the back of the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried forward.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

**ELW 365** 

#### EASTER 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.

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for these gifts of water:

Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, and the Skokie Lagoons.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power:
Noah and the animals survive the flood,
Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away,

your living water springing up to eternal life.

#### Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love.

Clothe us and all your people with grace.

Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy.

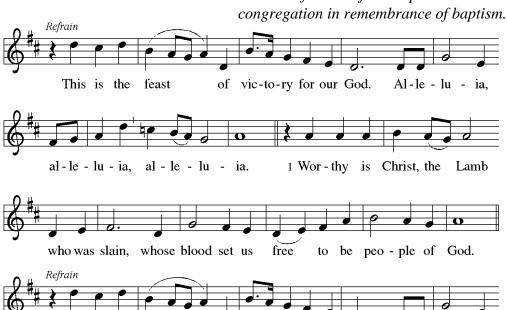
Guide us to walk humbly with you,

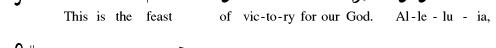
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Water from the font is sprinkled on the











#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead; Christ is alive and has become the Lord of Life! Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ. Help us to grow as your people toward fullness of life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

## + Word +

PSALM Psalm 118:1, 14-24

A reading from the Psalms.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;

here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand and turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried forward. God's Word Is Our Great Heritage (ELW 509)









Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt. Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, <sup>6</sup> who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you." 8 The women hurried away from the tomb with awe and great joy and ran to carry the good news to the disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus stood before them and said, "Shalom!" The women came up, embraced Jesus' feet and worshiped. <sup>10</sup> At this, Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell the disciples to go to Galilee, where they will see me "

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage (see p. 6)

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY
This Joyful Eastertide

The congregation may stand. ELW 391

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

O God, you call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or humanmade divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers*.)

Risen Lord, in your mercy or Risen Lord, we praise you, hear our prayer. thanks be to God.

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise (*especially*), free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.** 

#### THE PEACE

The congregation may stand.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

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.

## + Meal +

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

The congregation may be seated.

The God of heaven and earth, of all of creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes. God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning represent one way that we let go of fear – the fear of scarcity – and trust instead in the abundance of God. We let go of thinking that we are on our own, and we live in graceful dependence on God and on one another. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

## **O**FFERTORY

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 VERSE

The congregation may stand. Be Not Afraid (ELW 388)





Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

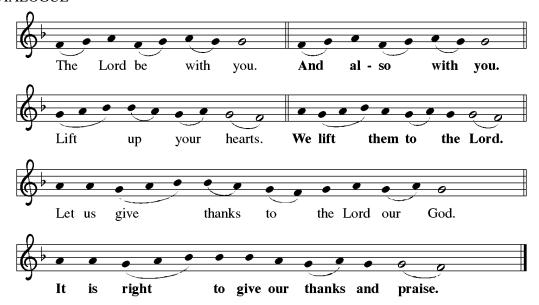
In the pouring of this wine,

pour us out in service to the world;

through Christ our Lord.

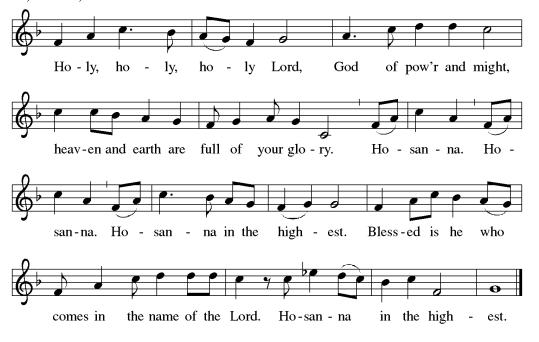
Amen.

### **DIALOGUE**



## **PREFACE**

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

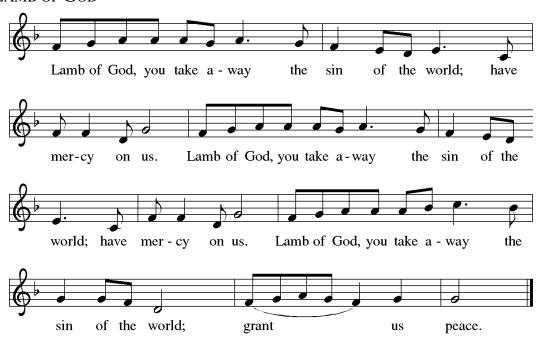
#### INVITATION

#### COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! You are invited to 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. Online worshippers may serve themselves, saying, "The body of Christ, broken for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

The congregation may be seated.

## LAMB OF GOD



### COMMUNION MUSIC

#### Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

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.

#### **FANFARE**

"Our Strength and Our Song"

Mark Patterson

# + Sending +

#### BENEDICTION

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

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried out.

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

**ELW 377** 

### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell everyone what God has done.

Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

"Grand Choeur alla Handel"

Alexandre Guilmant

## **SERVING TODAY**

Preaching & Presiding Minister: The Rev. Allison Bengfort

Crucifer: Aidan Maglocci

Torch Bearers: Finny Maglocci, Emma Radde

Assisting Minister: Chris Maglocci
Minister of Music: Luke Duroc-Danner

Soprano: Ariel Andrew

Mezzo-Soprano: Audrey Neace, Elizabeth Anne

Reeves

Trumpet: Alex Acimovic, Katie Hedberg

Trombone: Nikita Kovalov

Trombone/Tuba: Ava Siu
Minister of the Word: Emma Radde

Ushers: Buckley Crist, Peter Hauser Children's Church: Luke & Erin Rasmussen

Altar Guild: Susan Crist, Cindi Rachowicz,

Jan Wendel

Coffee Hour Hosts: Chris Maglocci, Jan Wendel

Cover Art: Heather Thum-Gerber

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- Scripture readings from The Inclusive Bible and the NRSV.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

All are invited to join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for a celebratory Easter breakfast. Children who would like to participate in the Egg Hunt should move to one of the front two pews during the postlude and wait for directions.

#### Children's Church

All children, ages 5-12, are invited to participate in Children's Church this morning. During the Processional Hymn, our Children's Church teachers will carry a "Children's Church" sign, and the young people may join the processional and follow the teachers to class. Parents are welcome to join their child in class if desired. The children will rejoin worship in time for communion.

### Children's Pray-Ground

We are so happy to welcome children in worship! Recognizing that children of different ages have different needs and attention spans, we are pleased to offer a pray-ground area in the back of the sanctuary for children to use when they need a break from sitting in the pews. This space is designed for children who do not attend Children's Church to have a place to draw or color while soaking up the liturgy going on around them. Parents are asked to monitor their children in this space, encouraging them to use "walking feet" and "quiet voices." Materials from the pray-ground may also be taken to the pews and returned after the service. Note to parents: Please know that grace abounds! We are so happy to have your family in worship, and we trust that the various sounds of children only brings God joy.

### Nursery

For infants and children who need a break from the worship space, a nursery with toys and a rocking chair is available downstairs. Ask an usher to guide you. Please note that parents must supervise their children in the nursery at all times.

## **New Member Sunday**

Next Sunday, April 16, we welcome Sam Caldwell and Bronwyn Parhad to the St. John's family. Both Sam and Bronwyn have been worshiping with us for several months, and they are happy to be joining as official members. Join us next Sunday to celebrate this step in their faith journeys!

#### Our RIC Journey: Resources Available, Questions & Comments Invited

This spring, our congregation is continuing the internal reflection and learning needed to become not just welcoming, but fully affirming of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is called the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process, which our RIC Team (Chris Maglocci, Chad Johnson, Molly Bolash, and Luke Rasmussen) hopes will culminate in an affirmative vote at our June congregational meeting to become an RIC church. Free resources on Biblical interpretation, supporting LGBTQIA+ youth, and queer terminology can be found on the table in the gathering area. The team would love to talk with you about your questions, comments, or concerns, so please reach out to have a conversation. You may also place anonymous questions in the rainbow box in the gathering area.

#### **RIC Welcome Statement Event**

To officially become an RIC church, we need to adopt a welcome statement that names the LGBTQIA+ community. Our RIC Team has drafted a statement, and they would like to share it with the congregation and receive feedback. Please join the RIC Team after worship on Sunday, April 16, in the Fellowship Hall to discuss this statement. Time allowing, we will also review the "Markers of an Inclusive Church" outlined by Pastor Elle Dowd at our March event and continue discussion.

## Soup Kitchen

St. John's is in charge of Soup Kitchen at St. Paul's on Sunday, April 16. They are still following Covid protocols, which means we need to buy meals from a local restaurant and have them delivered to the church rather than preparing and serving the meal ourselves. We will continue to order Gyros and veggie wraps from Hubs in Skokie because they have been really enjoyed by the clients. We do need to collect some funds to purchase the food. Would you please consider making a donation? Just make out a check to St. John's marked for Soup Kitchen. You can also donate through our website. Thank you so much! Your help is greatly appreciated.

## **Sunday School Promise Creation**

Over the past month, St. John's Sunday School students have been exploring Bible readings involving rules and promises, and recently created their own set of promise statements to guide their actions and behaviors while at church. During class, the children investigated the 10 Commandments, learned how Micah condensed these rules into just three, and explored how the Golden Rule (Matthew

7:12) further distilled these down to just one guiding idea. Students also discussed how "rules" are obligations generally expected of the *other* person, while "promises" are obligations that *we ourselves* agree to do. The children set about applying the lessons by exploring the question, "If we want church to be an enjoyable place where everyone can learn, feel included, and have fun, what might that look like?" The children brainstormed a long list of actions and ideas, then worked to group them according to commonalities, finally identifying the three main themes of "participation," "Golden Rule," and "safety." From here they created the following three promise statements:

- "I promise to participate during church."
- "I promise to always treat others as I want to be treated."
- "I promise to have a safe body and be safe in my environment."

The children recorded these promises on beautifully decorated posters which they then signed to show their commitment. With this work done, the students are now beginning the hard work of applying these within different settings during church. Feel free to look at their promise posters displayed in the Gathering Area and congratulate the children on the hard work they have done so far!

#### **Update on our Pastoral Transition**

Pastor Allison's last Sunday and Farewell Reception is Sunday, April 23. We will gather after that service in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate her 4.5 years with St. John's. We will toast her time and impact and share memories and stories. We look forward to hearing from everyone!

Kathy Nolte from the synod office will be joining the Council meeting on Wednesday evening, April 12. She will be reviewing the transition process and the roles of the key players (synod, outgoing Pastor, Council President, and Interim Pastor), the general timing of the process, boundaries for our relationship with Pastor Allison after she leaves, and answering all of our questions. If you have questions you would like addressed, please email them to Mylene at mylene.pollock@comcast.net.

## Arise Chicago Virtual Interfaith Service

Arise Chicago will be leading their annual interfaith service virtually on Friday, April 28, from 8:30-9:15 am for Workers Memorial Day. This is a tradition of honoring workers who have died in the past year. The theme of this year's service

is, "Let Their Lives Speak to Us." You can register for the service through the link in your eNewsletter. When you register, you may enter the names of those who have died this past year, and they will be acknowledged during the service.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

TODAY EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 AM Hybrid Worship

with Children's Church

10:30 AM Egg Hunt & Easter Breakfast

**TUESDAY** 

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

7:00 - 8:30 PM Church Council Meeting

**THURSDAY** 

12:00 - 1:00 PM Zoom-only Men's Lunch

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

9:30 AM Hybrid Worship

with Children's Church

10:30 AM Coffee Hour

10:45 - 11:45 AM RIC Welcome Statement Event

11:00 - 11:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal

# NOTES ON TODAY'S COMPOSERS

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a major composer of the end of the Baroque era, and today he is among the most celebrated composers of all time. J.S. Bach came from a large family of North German musicians, and in his day, he was primarily known as a virtuosic organist, harpsichordist, and organ builder. One of the principal features of J.S. Bach's music is synthesis - bringing together many styles, forms, and national traditions developed earlier in the Baroque period - as well as his mastery of both counterpoint and harmony, the horizontal and vertical in music. J.S. Bach has contributed major works to almost every genre of both instrumental and vocal music, but he is best known for his organ music and sacred compositions.

Mark Patterson (b. 1969) is a nationally acclaimed composer, conductor, and teacher who has worked with choral groups in public schools, universities, and churches throughout his career. He earned his PhD in Choral Conducting and Music Education from Texas Tech University, and he currently serves as the Director of Music at Salisbury Presbyterian Church in Midlothian, Virginia.

Martin Shaw (1875-1958) was an English composer and conductor who is best remembered for his anthems and hymns. However, he also composed several oratorios, a congregational mass setting (the *Anglican Folk Mass*), and four operas. Shaw was involved with the theater throughout his life, and early in his career, he co-founded the Purcell Operatic Society dedicated to reviving the music of Purcell and other early English composers. Later in life, he would tour Europe as a conductor with Isadora Duncan, and he would also hold Organist-Music Director roles at several London churches.

**Félix-Alexandre Guilmant** (1837-1901) was a French organist and composer who served at la Sainte-Trinité in Paris for most of his career. In particular, Guilmant was a noted pedagogue, performer, and improviser. As a performer, Guilmant was the first French organist to tour the United States, and he would frequently perform improvisations on Gregorian chant tunes in concert. The largest portion of his compositional output is in 18 collections of *Pièces dans différents styles* (Pieces in Differing Styles), and the majority is for organ - although he has a limited selection

of chamber and vocal music include a sinfonia cantata on the story of Ariane and a lyric scene on the story of Bathsheba.

# EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

The lilies decorating the sanctuary this Easter are given to the glory of God by:

- Pastor Allison Bengfort, in thanksgiving for over four years of ministry among the people of St. John's.
- Linda Bengfort, in loving memory of Irene Franke and in thanksgiving for her life and patience to sit beside me to practice piano each day.
- Lyn and Dave Brunn, in loving memory of Maggie Traugott Oxland.
- Rachel Cordts, in loving memory of Rachel E. and William J. Cordts.
- Amelia and Maddie Flachsbart, in loving memory of Grandma Flachsbart.
- Peter and Katie Hauser, in loving memory of Cyril Hauser and George Lutjen.
- Ken and Diane Kastman, in loving memory of Carolyn Groves.
- Peter Knobel, in loving memory of Loretta Knobel, Peter R. Knobel, Louis and Walt Glitzenstein.
- The Loesel family, in thanksgiving for all God's blessings to our family and in loving memory of Barbara and Larry Loesel.
- Cindi Rachowicz, in thanksgiving for Christ's love for all of us.
- Richard and Alla Rusz, in thanksgiving for family and friends.
- Margye Smith, in loving memory of Bob Smith.
- Jan Wendel, in loving memory of Doris and Charles Regan, Kevin Beretta, and Tom Wendel.
- Nancy and Larry Wood, in thanksgiving for friends and family and strangers who help.

Those who sponsored a lily are invited to take their lily home with them after today's service.