

# *Easter Sunday*

## *April 17, 2022*

### *Mark 2:4 Adaptive Worship Service*



# GRACE

L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

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Welcome! "The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. 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 and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

There are a few things to know about this service: you are not required to stand at any point though you can move around anytime you want or need, prayer slips are available for your prayers to be included in Prayer Time, and Holy Communion is served with gluten-free bread and grape juice.

## GATHERING SONG

### *All Are Welcome*

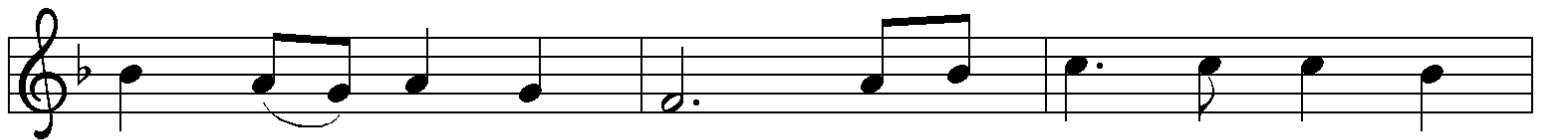
Verses 1 & 4



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of



Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen  
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## **GREETING**

**Pastor:** Christ is risen! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation:** And also with you. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation:** Amen.

## **FIRST READING**

### **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

*Introduction to the Lesson: Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.*

**Reader:** If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world. But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ. But each one will be raised in proper order: Christ, first of all; then, at the time of his coming, those who belong to him. Then the end will come; Christ will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and

powers, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and puts them under his feet. The last enemy to be defeated will be death.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 24:1-12**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 24th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, “Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.’” Then the women remembered his words, returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the grave cloths but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.”

*After the reading...*

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons**

**A Happy Beginning**

There’s a way of talking about Easter that makes it sound a bit like a surprise happy ending that brings a scary and suspenseful storyline to its resolution. On one level that’s true: Today is a day of joy! Death is defeated! This is the feast of victory of our God.

But if we think of today only as the final chapter in God’s story of salvation, we may leave Easter Sunday worship the same way we leave a movie theater after a satisfying film: we take a deep breath, we let out a sigh perhaps, we say, “Well, that was great,” and then we go back to our everyday lives. We go back to our grief. We go back to our fear about the future. We go back to a world where evil still seems to win.

Today is something different entirely. Easter is not a momentary interruption in the general order of things, a temporary reprieve from the heaviness of death. Far from wrapping things up or simply undoing the pain of Good Friday, the resurrection of Jesus Christ opens up a whole new way of living. It is not a “sigh” but an earthquake!

“But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them,” Luke writes (24:11). It takes time for the full magnitude of the empty tomb to settle in. Like the apostles upon hearing the women’s news, we can scarcely imagine what it means for us that God’s love is stronger than death, and that every aspect of our life together—indeed, the entire cosmos!—is changed by this good news. That’s why the church gives us fifty days to unpack this mystery, not just a single morning.

But one thing is for sure: Easter is not a happy ending so much as it is a new beginning. We who are baptized into Jesus Christ are free to live with death in the rearview mirror, no longer afraid of its power. Alleluia!

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* verses 1 & 2



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way, especially those on the prayer list of our congregation, all those suffering from violence, terror, and natural disasters (including all those impacted by COVID-19), and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts..... Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Congregation: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the "Donate" button), or (for now) by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. You can fill out your attendance form on our website as well.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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.**

## **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Prayer Leader: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, help those who go to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your everlasting presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

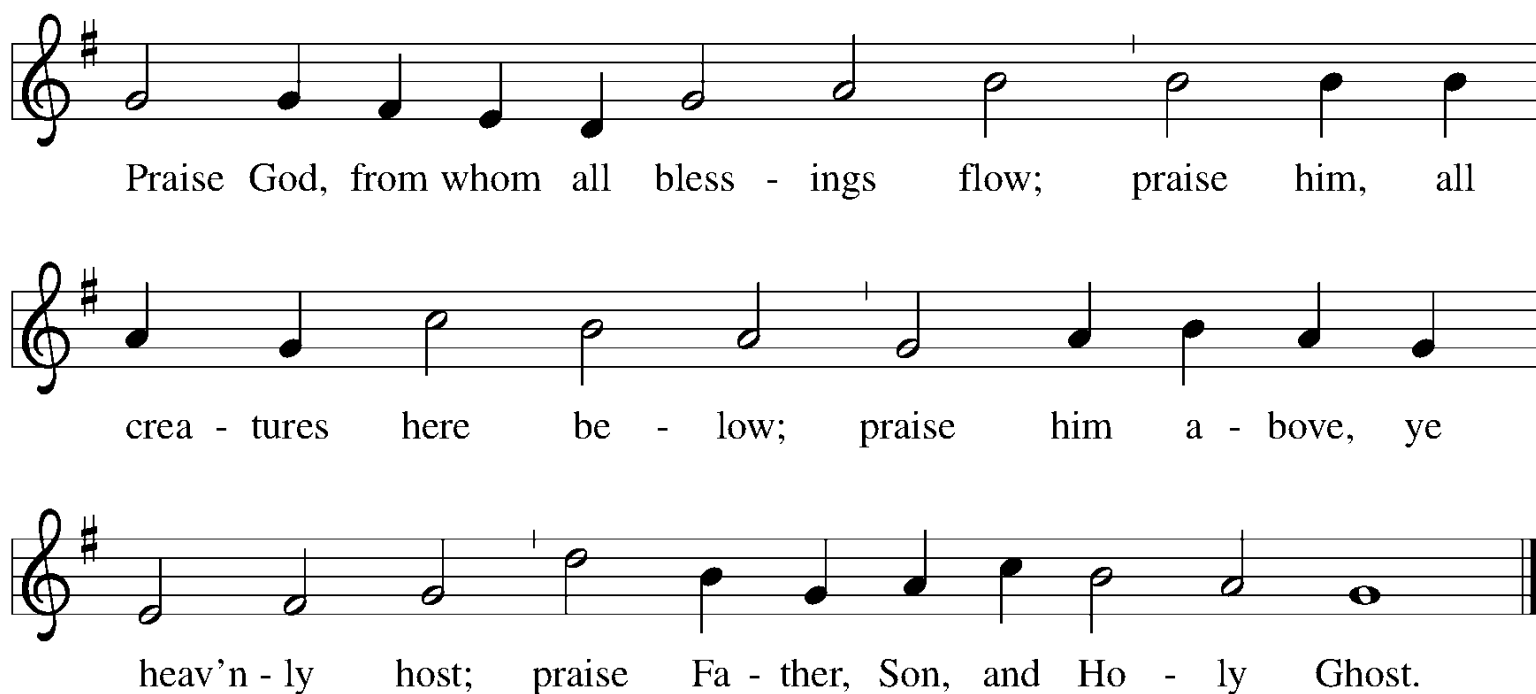
## BLESSING

Worship Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### *The Doxology*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Serve the Lord. He is risen!!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!!**