

SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 11, 2021

PRELUDE - *All Glory, Laud and Honor* by Peace Lutheran Church, New Braunfels

WELCOME / NOTES ON THE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN *JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY*

ELW 365

GREETING

L: Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is Risen Indeed!

L: The grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon 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 forevermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: 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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Has Arisen*

BISHOP SUE BRINER

ELW #364

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together in the love of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church, O God, that we may all unite in prayer as well as in practical help for those who are suffering for all reasons and seeking you. We pray for courage, wisdom and guidance so that we do not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel and being bearers of hope

in this challenging and uncertain time. Grant our churches and community's strength and resilience as they minister among the most vulnerable among us and in everything they do as reflections of your love. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us to the power of the Risen Christ who brings justice here on earth. We pray for the leaders of our nation that in the midst of this global pandemic they may work together for the common good, bringing down any barriers that divide us. Help them to act swiftly to cure and heal, for restoration and hope. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Grant peace and justice to nations and cities where there are conflicts, war or violence. Give us courage to hold accountable leaders of nations as they listen to the cries of the voiceless and protect the dignity of all people. We continue to pray for the Oromo people in Ethiopia and around the world; and others we name now... God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring healing and restoration for those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those who are traveling and for those in any need (especially...); Move us to work from charity to justice as we serve and advocate for those who are oppressed, hungry, and victims of violence. Teach us to show radical hospitality and compassion to all no matter who they are. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Continue to inspire us to work for racial justice. Keep our heart burning to do your will until your love and mercy overcome and eliminates all inequalities and inequities. Make this synod a community of reconciliation that loves one another and our neighbors. God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In life and in death, we are yours. We thank you for our ancestors in faith who have taught us to lament and to praise. We are especially mindful of the more than 535,000 people who have died in this country and the 2.5 million people who have died around the world from COVID-19. Bless the loved ones of those who have died with our presence and support. We remember those most dear to us whom we have entrusted to the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of Jesus, and we name them now... God of mercy, **receive our prayer**

We commend these prayers to you, O God; we entrust to the Spirit those prayers that we cannot yet pray, trusting what the Spirit does for us, with sighs too deep for words. For all that you know that we hold, we pray in Jesus's name. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

please pray in the language of your heart

Our Father 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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC *THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE*

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN *Canticle of the Turning*

ELW #723

SENDING

Go in peace -- Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen Indeed!**

POSTLUDE *HALLELUJAH CHORUS*

WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|----------|--|
| WELCOME | BISHOP SUE BRINER |
| PRESIDER | BISHOP'S ASSOCIATE JUDITH SPINDT |
| PREACHER | BISHOP SUE BRINER |
| LECTOR | BISHOP'S ASSOCIATE DEACON DARCY MITTELSTAEDT |
| PRAYERS | BISHOP'S ASSOCIATE & DEM ALLYSON PRYOR |

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JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY – ELW 365

CHRIST HAS ARISEN – ELW 364 -

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING – ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUSTIN

HALLELUJAH CHORUS – ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE – WOV 676 CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALAMO HEIGHTS