



SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

L Leader

C All

GATHERING

Welcome

The Rev. William (Bill) J. Gohl, Jr., Bishop

Prelude

God and God Alone

Phil McCue

Thanksgiving for Baptism

L In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L 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.

L We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by 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.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the
Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord

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

C Amen.

Gathering Song

Low in the Grave He Lay

TFF 94

1 Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,
2 Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior;
3 Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior;

wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord.
vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord.
he - tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord.

Refrain

Up from the grave he a - rose, he a - rose, with a

might - y tri - umph o'er his foes; o'er his foes, he a -

rose a vic - tor o - ver death's do - main, and he

lives for - ev - er, with his saints to reign. He a -

rose! He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!
He a - rose! He a - rose!

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

℣ 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.**

℣ Let us pray.

℣ 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.**

HEARING THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

℣ A reading from Acts.

Now 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.**

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

TFF 25

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

Gospel

John 20:19-31

⌋ The Holy Gospel according to John.

c 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 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.
c Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin

Hymn of the Day

Thine is the Glory

LBW 145



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!

Prayers of Intercession

ℓ Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

ℓ You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and William, for United Lutheran Seminary: our students, faculty and staff, for our seminary president Guy, and all those who are open to your call to public ministry in this Church. Hear us, O God.

c Your mercy is great.

ℓ You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

c Your mercy is great.

ℓ You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

c Your mercy is great.

ℓ You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

c Your mercy is great.

ℓ You give us fellowship with one another in faith and community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another, and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

c Your mercy is great.

ℓ You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

c Your mercy is great.

ℓ In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

c Amen.

Lord's Prayer

ℓ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**c 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.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

ℓ Let us give thanks for the Word:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

c Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

℣ Go into the world in peace, be of good courage. Render to no one an evil thing for an evil thing. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, comfort the afflicted, cry out for justice, honor all people, love and serve the Lord. May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son † and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

℣ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia: Mfurahini, haleluya

TFF 96

M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
 1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.

m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
 Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go.
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

Refrain

Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
 He has arisen this world to save.
 Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
 Even the battle with sin is won."

Refrain

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
 Alleluia, to him praises be.
 Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
 he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.

Refrain

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Commissioning

L Go in peace, tell the Good News!

c Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP LEADERS

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Preacher

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, President
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