

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, April 26, 2020

Gathering

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." —Matthew 18:20

Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

Welcoming and Opening Words

Today is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The tomb is empty, and he is not there.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn: "Now the Green Blade Rises" #379

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
2. In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
3. Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

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Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. Amen.

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.

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd. Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone who the Lord our God calls to him. And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reading: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me; I came to grief and sorrow;

Then I called upon the name of the LORD; " O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.

O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

in the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Solo: Ana Miller

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 (*response after announcement of Gospel: Glory to you, O Lord*)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

(*response after reading of Gospel: Praise to you, O Christ*)

Message

Hymn: "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" #389

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and home with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.
3. In every insult, rift, and war,
where scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet love the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
4. Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy
with justice, love and praise.

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Statement of Faith: Apostle Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering/Offertory : "Create in Me a Clean Heart" #185

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

*Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers.
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Prayers

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times, and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (a brief silence)

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the diverse natural world; for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*For the faith forming ministries of this church. For those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and membership. For those who participate in Sunday school and adult education; guide and inspire learners of every age and ability. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign the peace with one another*

Sending

Hymn: “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” #536

1. God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again. **Chorus**
 2. God me with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. **Chorus**
 3. God be with you till we meet again;
when life’s perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. **Chorus**
- Chorus:** Till we meet, till we meet
till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin. Music: William G. Tomer. Public domain.

Benediction

Remember in your prayers

Steve Wagner and family on the death of his mother, Mick Rose, Angie Staples, those affected by COVID -19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support. Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChapelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.