



**Lord of Life**  
Lutheran Church



*You matter to God.*

*You matter to us.*

**First In-Person Indoor Service of The Year  
Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**  
Service of the Word

**THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude: Think About His Love**

**arr. Mark Hayes**

**Words of Welcome**

**Gathering Song: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!**

**ELW 382**

Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Risen our victorious head!  
Sing his praises! Alleluia!  
Christ is risen from the dead!  
Gratefully our hearts adore him  
as his light once more appears;  
bowing down in joy before him,  
rising up from griefs and tears.

Christ is risen! All the sorrow  
that last evening round him lay  
now has found a glorious morrow  
in the rising of today.  
See the grave its firstfruits giving,  
springing up from holy ground;  
Christ was dead, but now is living;  
he was lost, but he is found.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Risen our victorious head!  
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Christ is risen! All the sadness  
of our Lenten fast is o'er;  
through the open gates of gladness  
he returns to life once more;  
death and hell before him bending  
see him rise, the victor now,  
angels on his steps attending,  
glory round his wounded brow.

Christ is risen! Henceforth never  
death or hell shall us enthrall.  
We are Christ's, in him forever  
we have triumphed over all.  
All the doubting and dejection  
of our trembling hearts have ceased;  
hail the day of resurrection!  
Let us rise and keep the feast.

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## **Greeting**

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.**

## **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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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.**

## **THE WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **First Reading: Acts 4:32-35**

A reading from Acts.

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There 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. <sup>35</sup>They 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.**

### **Second Reading: 1 John 1:1 – 2:2**

A reading from 1 John.

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world

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

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

## **Gospel: John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>A 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." <sup>27</sup>Then 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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sons and daughters, let us sing  
with heav'nly hosts to Christ our king:  
today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia!

That Easter morn, at break of day,  
the faithful women went their way  
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia!

An angel clad in white they see,  
who sits and speaks unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia!

That night the apostles met in fear;  
among them came their master dear,  
and said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard,  
that they had seen the risen Lord,

he doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia!

"My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
and look upon my hands, my feet;  
not faithless, but believing be."  
Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied;  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen,  
and yet whose faith has constant been,  
for they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,  
be laud and jubilee and praise:  
to God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Prayers of Intercession**

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... **Your mercy is great.**

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... **Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL AND OFFERING**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful**

**ELW 184**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### **Preface**

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 and join their unending hymn:

### **Holy Holy Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

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.

### **Lord's Prayer**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND FIRST COMMUNION**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

### **Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

### **Lamb of God**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **Temple Talk from Hunger Ministries**

### **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling  
take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who  
believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for  
all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer  
your call.

With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will  
face--  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole  
human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we  
share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that  
we bear.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: I Sing Praises**

**by Terry Mac Almon**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Worship on the Web**

Bible study: Mondays at 7 PM

Sunday school: Sundays 10 AM

Confirmation: Visit <https://www.lordoflife.online/confirmation.html> for  
information on your class.

**Via Zoom:**

<https://bit.ly/2YYHkGh>  
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371  
Passcode: Luther

**Phone in at:**

(312)626-6799  
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371  
Passcode: 456037

**Do you have news or an announcement to share? Fill out our new form!**

Visit <https://lordoflife.breezechms.com/form/communications-request> and provide  
the requested information or call our office at (563) 582-7371. The form collects  
your email address if I have any questions for you. Thank you.

## **First Communion**

Over the next few weeks we will be welcoming new children to the Lord's Table as they receive their First Communion.

## **Prayer List April 11-17**

Charles & Janice Schepler

Tami Schepler

Steve & Brandie Seay and family

Tim Shade

Lance & Laura Sherlock and family

John & Ellen Sandberg-Shook and family

Dale & Jan Schrobilgen

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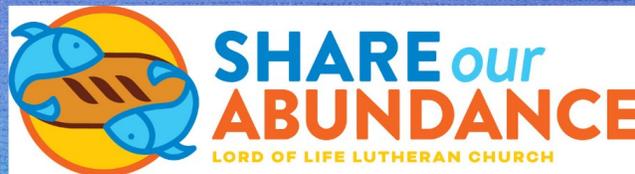
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**Faithful  
Living +  
Joyful  
Giving**

A GUILT-FREE STEWARDSHIP STUDY



Join Pastor Paul for this unique Bible study that promises to deepen our spirituality as a part of the Share Our Abundance campaign.

This study seeks to help us move into a joyful response for the many gifts we have as Christians.

Six Thursdays starting April 15th. Sign up by contacting Pastor Paul.

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