

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

April 27, 2025 – Second Sunday of Easter – Care of Creation

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Preacher: Jane Unger; Lector: Greg Newton; Live Stream: Sam Hanson; Time with Children: Jana Hovland; Ushers: Laura Blankenship, Sue Ellen Miller; Greeter: Jo Anne L'Heureux; Acolyte: Rachel; Tray Server: Susan Urano*



INTRODUCTION

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Lift Your Glad Voices* CLC Choir Christian Yoder, Director

LITANY FOR EARTH DAY

God, on this day we celebrate the gift of this planet, Earth,

Which you created for us as a home:

A home for humanity

A home for creatures

A home for plants

A good gift of creation.

We are truly sorry for the ways we have corrupted it.

Forgive us.

We are truly sorry for the ways we have disregarded its well-being.

Forgive us.

We are truly sorry for the ways we've been complicit in systems that degrade it.

Forgive us.

Help us, Oh God,

To be good stewards of your gifts to us.

Help us, Oh God,

To realize our connectedness to creation.

Help us, Oh God,

To understand our reliance upon the Earth.

Help us, Oh God,

To bring healing to the planet.

Help us, Oh God,

To make changes that benefit all creatures.

As all creation praises and glorifies you,

So we praise you.

As all creation reflects your character and beauty,

So we seek to reflect your beauty.

As all creation supports and sustains us,

So we seek to support one another.

For the gracious gift and vast beauty of creation,

We give thanks. Amen

GATHERING SONG

Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379)



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son.
By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body 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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SENIOR RECOGNITION

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

A reading from Acts.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here

you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

A reading from Revelation.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

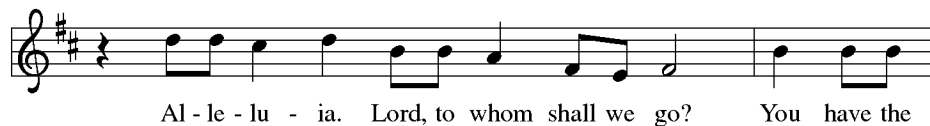
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

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

HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Dear God, as we celebrate the Earth and the wonders of nature this week, we thank you for this beautiful place where we live. We are called to be caretakers of this world, but we have not done enough to protect and help the environment. Please help us individually, and as a society, to find ways to help the Earth and all of creation grow and thrive. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Love, we are grateful for this opportunity to be here with one another this morning to hear your message of love, kindness and hope. This may be a stressful time for many of us, as we may be taking exams, moving, traveling, taking on projects at work or facing other challenges. Thank you for helping each of us as we go through stressful times and help us to reach out to the people we meet in our lives and give them hope and comfort. And please also help us to remember that while we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, so many people live in danger and in fear in our world. Please be with everyone whose lives are filled with danger of any sort. We ask you to help our leaders around the world to work for peace instead of conflict. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families and bless our veterans. We ask you to also bless all refugees and help them to find comfort, respect, and acceptance. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. Please hear us now as we ask for blessings for those we name aloud or in our hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

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There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

OFFERTORY *This Joyful Eastertide*

CLC Choir

Christian Yoder, Director

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our 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.

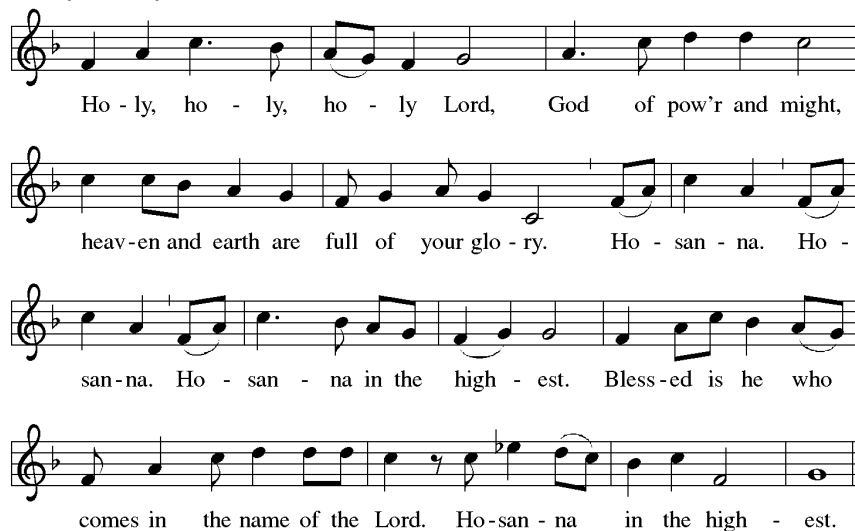
PREFACE

It is right and a good and joyous thing,
always and everywhere

to give you praise, Creator of heaven and earth.
You took the formless chaos,
swept across it with your mighty Spirit,
and said, "Let there be light!" And there was light.
You separated the heavens and earth,
and brought forth trees and plants.
You set sun, moon, and stars in the heavens,
and called forth fish, birds, and all living creatures.
You made us, creatures of your own image,
to live in communion with you.

We long for relationship with you,
but in our humanness, we turn away.
Yet you remain steadfast,
calling us again and again to turn to you.
For your grace and for all your mercies toward us,
we join your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
in proclaiming your praise:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Your Spirit flowed through his life
as he became the bridge for our reconciliation.
In this time we remember his life and work.
We remember your gift of Baptism.
We reflect on the mystery of the cross.
We dare to ponder resurrection.

Especially we recall how Jesus took grain,
grown by your sunshine and rain,
ground by human hands into flour,
mixed with water and made into bread,
in honor of him who is the Bread of Life.
We recall how Jesus took the cup,
with grapes grown in your sunlight,
trod into juice for drinking,
that we might know you and never thirst again.

And taking bread and cup,
blessing and breaking them,
Jesus gave them new meaning
as he said:

“Take, eat; this is my body.”
“Drink from this cup, all of you;
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

In remembrance of all your mighty acts on our behalf,
we bring our whole selves to you,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on these, the gifts of your creation:
grain, grapes, and us your children.
Make us see your touch in all of creation
and let us bring your light into every darkened shadow.
Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!