

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

**NOTE: Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex for worship services.
Please see an Usher or Greeter if needed.**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Gathering Song:**

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

363



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

Remembering that Jesus the Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and was raised on the third day giving us eternal life. We continue with confession and forgiveness.

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for Reflection

Gracious Father,

C: As we gather in the presence of the Almighty, we confess our human frailty and our constant falling short of righteousness. We acknowledge our pride, our selfishness, and our failure to love one another as you have commanded. Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us the strength to walk in your ways, reflecting your grace and mercy to all. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. In the glorious light of Easter morning, we proclaim the victory of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Through His sacrifice, your sins are washed away. Receive the assurance of forgiveness, knowing that in Christ, we are made new. Go forth in joy, for you are forgiven and redeemed.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

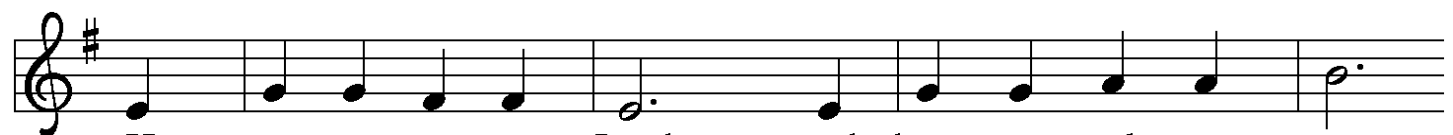
C: And also with you.

GREETING (Please be seated)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie:



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise: Glory to God



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day: 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.

C: Amen.

Bell Choir: "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today"

Children's Sermon

WORD

The 1st lesson is a reading from Acts, the 4th chapter.

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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133 (Read Responsively)

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

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.

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

The 2nd lesson is a reading from I John, the 1st & 2nd chapters.

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—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—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. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 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. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation:**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.**

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

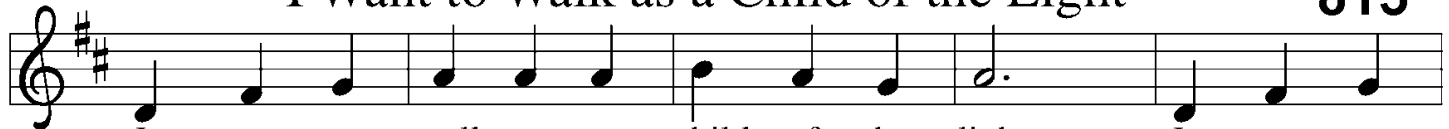
Sermon: Freedom from Doubt

Pastor David Viles

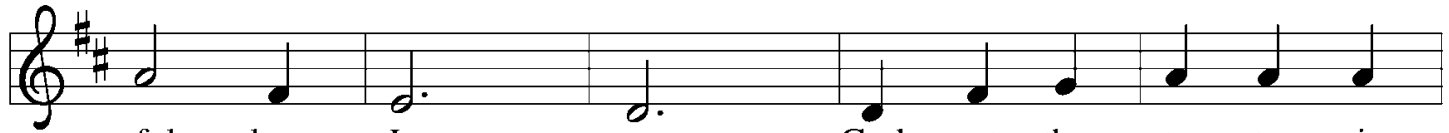
Hymn of the Day:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

* **Apostle's Creed – Please stand.**

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 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.

THANKSGIVING

Offering: We worship God by giving back a little of what he has first given us. God calls us by the Holy Spirit to care for all of God's people and creation through these gifts.

***(Please Stand) Offertory: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Offertory Prayer:** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

*** The Prayers of Intercession:** The congregation's response to "God of grace," is "hear our prayer."

***The 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.**

SENDING

***Blessing:** (Please Stand)

Pastor David

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.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song**

Thine Is the Glory

376

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

Refrain
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!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Presiding Minister	Pastor David Viles
Organist / Keyboard	Zola Finch
Song Leader	Kathy Meller
Acolyte	Madeline Stubinger
Audio / Video Technician	Dan Tschirgi
Reader	Frank Pascoe
Council	A J Ferrell
Greeters	Jason Wood & Jacklyn Wood
Altar Flowers	Kathryn Linsenbardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's Pancake Breakfast today: serving from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Adults \$10, Kids \$5 (age 6-12) Kids 5 and under are free.

Fruendschaft Gruppe meets tomorrow evening at 5:30 for dinner followed by a few chores. This will be our last meeting until September. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Jeannette at 782-4594 by 9 PM this evening.

Church Council meets tomorrow evening at 6:00 pm. in the large Sunday school room upstairs.

FISH FRY – will be held at the Lohman, Community Building from 4pm to 6pm next Sunday, April 14: Adults \$13, children \$7, 5 years old and under FREE. Come out and support your community and enjoy a great meal.

Hymn History – This week's Gathering song, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" was written by John of Damascus. Born in 675 in Damascus, John was raised and instructed by his Christian father who was an official at the court of the Muslim Caliph in Damascus. John's grandfather was retained as a Christian civil servant when the Muslims took control, and his father is reported to have played a role in the capitulation of Damascus to Muslim troops in 635 after securing favorable conditions of surrender. John himself is written to have a knowledge of the Quran which he criticized harshly. Around the age of forty after assuming his father's position of great means and power, John became dissatisfied with his life, ridded himself of possessions, freed his slaves, and became a Monk near Jerusalem. He became especially well known for defending the church's use of icons, codifying the Byzantine chant, and writing about science, philosophy, and theology. Reportedly forged documents implicated John in a plot to attack Damascus. The caliph ordered John's right hand be cut off and hung in public view. Our hymn's text today comes from John's first ode of the "Golden Canon", considered to be his finest work. It was interpreted by the prolific hymn writer John Neale.

Schedule for Online Services:

Services are at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings on FaceBook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

All services can be viewed at any time on our St. Paul's website:

<http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org> just scroll down to the middle section and click on the service of your choice under "In Case You Missed It." Below that is another section for current and past bulletins.

Pastor David Viles