

EASTER II AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

April 7, 2024

AS WE GATHER: The Easter Season finds us, gathered together by the Spirit's work, in the mystery of the presence of the Risen Christ. Gathered to God in Christ, we are here empowered to share what we have received: forgiveness, peace and hope to all He gathers to us and thus gathers to Himself.

EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Christ is Risen!

P: **He is Risen Indeed!**

L: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

P: **Alleluia!**

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: "Free to Worship"

Verse 1

We have gathered to sing these songs
Wretched sinners and desperate frauds
Fully covered in Jesus' blood
Free to worship the Three In One
Free to worship the Three In One

Chorus

Holy is the Lord
Holy is the Lord Almighty
Holy is the Lord our mighty God

Verse 2

We have gathered to sing these songs
Sons and daughters of every tongue
Bound together in Jesus blood
Free to worship the Three In One
Free to worship the Three In One

Bridge

The curtain was torn through
We stand before You
And mercy is all you speak

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of Jesus in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together, as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace of the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me a sinner.

P: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declare us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit.

P: **Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: "God Who Bleeds"

Verse 1

Oh my soul
Who could ever know
How deep my sins go
Oh my soul
All the gold
On the earth could never pay
For the debt that I have made
On my soul

Chorus

Now I see just how great my need
In His hands and in His feet
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds

Verse 2

Oh what love
Knew I'd never have enough
So He chose to pay in blood
Oh what love
I'm in awe
Every earthly gain is lost
At the wonder of the cross
Oh what love

Bridge

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds
See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds

Tag

Hallelujah to the God who bleeds

FIRST READING: *Acts 4:32-35*

The whole group of believers lived in harmony. No one called any of his possessions his own. Instead, they shared everything.

With great power the apostles continued to testify that the Lord Jesus had come back to life. God's abundant good will was with all of them. None of them needed anything. From time to time, people sold land or houses and brought the money to the apostles. Then the money was distributed to anyone who needed it. -GW®

SECOND READING: *1 John 1:1-4 & 8-2:2*

The Word of life existed from the beginning. We have heard it. We have seen it. We observed and touched it. This life was revealed to us. We have seen it, and we testify about it. We are reporting to you about this eternal life that was in the presence of the Father and was revealed to us. This is the life we have seen and heard. We are reporting about it to you also so that you, too, can have a relationship with us. Our relationship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that we can be completely filled with joy.

If we say, "We aren't sinful" we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong. If we say, "We have never sinned," we turn God into a liar and his Word is not in us.

My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. Yet, if anyone does sin, we have Jesus Christ, who has God's full approval. He speaks on our behalf when we come into the presence of the Father. He is the payment for our sins, and not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world.-GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: *John 20:19-31*

That Sunday evening, the disciples were together behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" When he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were glad to see the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." After he had said this, he breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Thomas, one of the twelve apostles, who was called Didymus, wasn't with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord."

Thomas told them, "I refuse to believe this unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my fingers into them, and put my hand into his side."

A week later Jesus' disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then Jesus said

to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Take your hand, and put it into my side. Stop doubting, and believe."

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe because you've seen me. Blessed are those who haven't seen me but believe."-GW®

SERMON SONG: "Christ is Risen"

Verse 1

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

Chorus

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Verse 2

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down
In strength You reign
Forever let Your church proclaim

Bridge

O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night (*repeat Bridge then sing--*)
Our God is not dead He's alive He's alive

MESSAGE: "Gathered to Show"

SONG OF THE DAY: "Is He Worthy"

Verse 1

Do you feel the world is broken—We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen—We do
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through—We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new—We do

Verse 2

Is all creation groaning—It is
Is a new creation coming—It is
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst—It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this—It is

Chorus 1

Is anyone worthy—Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy—Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this—He is

Verse 3

Does the Father truly love us—He does
Does the Spirit move among us—He does
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves—He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us—He does

Chorus 2

Is anyone worthy—Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy—Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy—Is He worthy
Is He worthy of this—He is

Ending

Is He worthy—Is He worthy
He is—He is

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Third article of apostle's creed and meaning from LSC

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

L: What does this mean?

P: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

L: In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

P: In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

L: On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

P: This is most certainly true!

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND CONFESSION OF FAITH: 9:30 am
(See page 11 for a list of the 2024 Youth Confirmands.)

Offering: There is a plate in the Narthex for your gifts. If you so desire, TEXT GIVING is available by texting GIVE to 562 210-0463. You can also mail in your gifts to the church office.

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: Eternal is the gift He brings, May these our gifts bring hearts to sing:

P: Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany/Holy Cross in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are alcohol free. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are gluten free.

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

"Sweet Comfort"

Verse 1

Whatever my God ordains is right
His holy will abides
I will be still whatever He does
And follow where He guides

Chorus

Sweet comfort sweet comfort
Yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort sweet comfort
Sorrow shall depart

Verse 2

Whatever my God ordains is right
He makes my feet to stand
Though sorrow need or death be mine
He holds me in His hand

Bridge

This bitter cup I take it
My fainting heart restored
So here I stand unshaken
I trust upon the Lord

Verse 3

He is my God though dark my road
He holds me I shall not fall
Whatever my God ordains is right
To Him I leave it all

“The Sound of Grace”**Verse 1**

Never-ending unrelenting constant source of hope
Running down from lofty mountains
Into springs below
Oh I am soaked from head to toe in

Chorus

Grace sweet grace
A fountain for my soul
Grace sweet grace
A mighty waterfall
Drops of mercy all around
Everywhere the sound of grace

Verse 2

All-consuming shadows looming
Valleys of distress
Draining every strength within me
Til there's nothing left
But I am endlessly refreshed in

Bridge

It never stops running over
This rushing water on my shoulders

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**BENEDICTION:**

L: Now the God of peace Himself keep you blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it! Go in peace.

CLOSING SONG: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

Verse 1

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 2

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 3

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 4

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

+ + + + + +

Youth Confirmation Class of 2024

JESSICA KATHERINE APPLEBY
daughter of Jason and Shannon Appleby

JAIDEN MARIE BEATTY
daughter of Sherlyn Beatty Barba and Raphael Barba, and Jose Aldana

JOSEPH WILLIAM BOWERS
son of Kevin and Ingrid Bowers

SOPHIA CYNTHIA CARLSON
daughter of Mike Carlson and Jennifer Carlson

HUNTER MATTHEW DEEBLE
son of Corey and Jennifer Deeble

BENJAMIN ARTHUR EVANS
son of Jeffrey and Carrie Evans

BRYCE D. GORNE
son of Nels Gorne and Vanessa Fazio

BLAKE MONTAGUE MENCHACA
son of Amanda Menchaca

ANIKA PAIGE MORGENSEN
daughter of Mike and Shannon Morgensen

HAILEY ERIN PERALTA
daughter of Mike and Jackie Peralta

TREVOR ANTHONY TORRES
son of Gilbert and Amber Torres

ADAM V. VEGA
son of Reginald and Sara Vega

+ + + + + +

COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS:

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book*
©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012696

"Free to Worship"

CCLI Song #6318781

Kip Fox ©2012 Wilt Creative Music (Admin. By CWC Music Publishing).

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License No. 396555.

"God who Bleeds"

CCLI Song # 7226510

Benji Cowart | Cara Berg | Jon Gruen | Matt Preston

© 2023 The Center for Worship Leadership (CWL Publishing); GoBillsMusic; We Are TIM Music; Admin by Adarga Entertainment Group LLC, Capitol CMG Publishing.) ; For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"Christ is Risen"

CCLI Song # 5242683

Matt Maher | Mia Fieldes

© 2009 spiritandsong.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC); Tempo Music Investments (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC); For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"Is He Worthy"

CCLI Song #7108951

Andrew Peterson | Ben Shive

© 2018 Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Junkbox Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Jakedog Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"Sweet Comfort"

CCLI Song # 7041363

Latifah Alattas | Sandra McCracken

© 2015 Drink Your Tea Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC])

Moda Spira Publishing (Admin. by Moda Spira LLC)

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License No. 396555

"Sound of Grace"

CCLI #7032751

Kip Fox

©Words, used with permission. For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"Nothing but the Blood"

CCLI Song #7064076

Robert Lowry | arr. Blake Flattley

©Words, used with permission. For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Logan Noble

Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz

Preacher... Vicar John Alwood

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Crucifer 9:30...Marcus Vander Horck

Lector 9:30...Shannon Morgensen

Liturgist...Pastor Kyle Blake

Children's Message...Abi Hilpert

Piano/Keyboard...Pat Gagan