



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Prelude

Confession

P: Let us confess our sins together with one voice:

C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Creator God, hear our prayer.

[Prayer of Healing, U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program]

P: We join with the earth and with each other.

**C: To bring new life to the land.
To restore the waters.
To refresh the air.**

P: We join with the earth and with each other.

**C: To renew the forests.
To care for the plants.
To protect the creatures.**

P: We join with the earth and with each other.

**C: To celebrate the seas.
To rejoice in the sunlight.
To sing the song of the stars.**

P: We join with the earth and with each other.

**C: To recall our destiny.
To renew our spirits.
To reinvigorate our bodies.**

P: We join with the earth and with each other.

**C: All To create the human community.
To promote justice and peace.
To remember our children.**

P: Hear our earnest commitment to mend our ways and joyfully accept our responsibility as your stewards and the discipline it requires. Support us in our striving. Forgive us in our faltering. Amen.

*Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

**Comets with tails, Galaxies swirling!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

*All ponds and seas! Rivers and small streams!
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

**Good soil, clean air, Clouds in the heavens!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

*Birds on the wing, Bees busy buzzing!
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

**Spiders in webs, shrimp in the Gulf Stream!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

*Stones in the ground, sand on the seashore!
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

**Ice on the poles, snow in the arctic!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

*Crops in the fields, filling our stomachs!
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

**Bounty of earth, nurturing all life!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

Easter Greeting

P: Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

P: The grace of our victorious and risen Lord, the love our God who raised him and the communion of the Holy Spirit which he gives to us be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, it is out of your love for us and all things that you brought order to chaos, light from darkness, all nature from speech and humanity from dust. As you breathed life into us and we lived, inspire us to continually breath life back into all creation, celebrating its goodness, fulfilling our role and humbly keeping our proper place in your plan for all that you have made. We pray this in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

Proverbs 8

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth--
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,

when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.
And now, my children, listen to me:
happy are those who keep my ways.
Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

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

Psalm

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.
**Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have given wise council,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;*
**what are human beings that you are mindful of us,
mere mortals, that you care for us?**

*Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.*
**You have given them dominion
over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up "treasure" for the last days. Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you. Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the returning of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the returning of the Lord is near.

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

Verse

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!

P: Spread the Good News over all the earth!

C: Jesus has died and is risen!

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 8

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to Jesus, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was

trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear, listen!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

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*For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:*

Refrain:

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: [Refrain]*

*For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]*

*For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]*

*For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: [Refrain]*

Apostles Creed (8:30) / Holy Baptism (11:00)

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us Pray

C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Blessing of Our Gardens

P: Let us now ask God's blessing on our Gardens. We give thanks and pray for our seeds and seedlings. If you have brought seeds, bulbs, or seedlings, hold them up . . .

Creating God, you provided the first seeds for sowing and seedlings for planting. Bless these seeds that we have collected and saved, and these seedlings we have nurtured through the early spring, that they will germinate, take root and grow into a beautiful display or a wonderful harvest. Lord of Life:

C: Hear our Prayer

We give thanks and pray for the soil. If you brought some soil from your garden, hold it up . . .

Creating God, you invested the earth with the power to give life; forming us from its dust and nurturing all life from its richness. As we now work the ground to increase its fertility, let the dirt on our hands and under our nails remind us that we are not masters of this precious gift, but stewards who must tend it with a care that shepherds the soil into the generations to come. Lord of Life:

C: Hear our Prayer

We give thanks and pray for rain, irrigation systems and watering cans. If you brought a hose, sprayer or watering can, hold it up . . .

Creating God, your first act was to calm and control the waters that covered the earth, constraining them to proper places and proper roles. Water was pushed back to reveal the soil, but the water must return to the soil to sustain its life. So, we pray for favorable and seasonal rains, a holding back of the flood waters, and the wisdom to be wise stewards over this resource, understanding that we are not really masters, but at best partners in managing the bring clean, fresh water where it is needed, when it is needed. Lord of Life:

C: Hear our Prayer

We give thanks and pray for our skills and our tools. If you brought gloves, or some other tool, hold it up . . .

Creating God, we give thanks that you have given us the intellect to develop tools and techniques that seek to maximize our industry and our yields. Bless us with strong backs and sturdy tools, that our toiling will be rewarding and rewarded. Give us the wisdom we need to tend our plants, manage the pests and diseases, protect the produce from predators, harvest at the

*right time and know the joy of feasting and sharing the beauty
and bounty of what we have grown. Lord of Life:*

C: Hear our Prayer

Garden Song

John Denver

*Inch by inch, row by row,
Gonna make this garden grow,
**All it takes is a rake and a hoe,
And a piece of fertile ground.***
*Inch by inch, row by row,
Someone bless these seeds I sow,
**Someone warm them from below,
Till the rain comes tumbling down.***

*Pulling weeds and picking stones,
Man is made of dreams and bones,
**Feel the need to grow my own
Cause the time is close at hand.***
*Grain for grain, sun and rain,
Find my way in nature's chain,
**Tune my body and my brain
To the music from the land.***

*Plant your rows straight and long,
Temper them with prayer and song,
**Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her love and care.***
*Old crow watching hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
**In my garden I'm as free,
As that feathered thief up there.***

*Inch by inch, row by row,
Gonna make this garden grow,
**All it takes is a rake and a hoe,
And a piece of fertile ground.***
*Inch by inch, row by row,
Someone bless these seeds I sow,
**Someone warm them from below,
Till the rain comes tumbling down.***

Prayers of the Church

And now we pray for all other things for which we seek God's intercession and presence: that our compassion reaches out to feed hungry, shelter the homeless, sustain the needy, heal the sick, comfort the dying and secures the hope of justice and peace. Creating God hear our prayers for those most close to our own hearts and present in our minds . . . and hear the prayers we offer for ourselves . . . and, finally, we pray as your Son, Jesus taught us . . .

Benediction

Dismissal

This Week at Grace



MONDAY

Widowed Support Group @ 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

Early Birds Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

THURSDAY

Bible Study w/Pastor @ 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study w/Pastor @ 7:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*
Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*
Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*