



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

## 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER ☩ SERVICE OF THE WORD

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**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Office of the Bishop**

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### GATHERING

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

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

The word is near you,

**on your lips and in your heart.**

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Faith comes from what is heard,

**and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

### HYMN

*Open our eyes Lord*

*We want to see Jesus*

*To reach out and touch Him*

*And say that we love Him*

*Open our ears Lord*

*And Help us to listen*

*Open our eyes Lord*

*We want to see Jesus*

## 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

Kyrie eleison. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison. **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison. **Lord, have mercy.**

## GLORIA

*Glory to God in the highest  
Goodwill and peace to God's people on earth  
Glory to God in the highest*

*Glory to God in the highest  
Goodwill and peace to God's people on earth  
Glory to God in the highest*

*Lord God, heavenly King  
Almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks  
We praise you for your glory*

*Glory to God in the highest  
Goodwill and peace to God's people on earth  
Glory to God in the highest*

*Glory to God in the highest  
Goodwill and peace to God's people on earth  
Glory to God in the highest*

*Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father  
Lord you are the Lamb of God  
You take away the sins of the world  
Have mercy on us*

*You are seated at the right hand of the Father  
Have mercy on us ...*

*Glory to God in the highest  
goodwill and peace to God's people on earth  
Glory to God in the highest –  
in the highest  
in the highest*

## 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.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING ✠ ACTS 4:32-35

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. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 133

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.

## SECOND READING ✠ 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

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. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia.* Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. *Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL ✠ JOHN 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to Saint John. **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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me  
Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father*

## CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## 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.

*A brief silence.*

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community of the Metropolitan New York Synod. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Please share intercessions with us in the comments section.*

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, lead by Mary, Mother of God, and with all the saints, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. At this time donations can be made to the Bishop's discretionary fund to help congregations and rostered leaders during the Covid-19 crisis.*

## CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

*Who taught the sun where to stand in the morning?  
And who told the ocean, you can only come this far?  
And who showed the moon where to hide 'til evening?  
Whose words alone can catch a falling star?*

*I know my Redeemer lives  
I know my Redeemer lives  
All of creation testifies  
This life within me cries  
I know my Redeemer lives, yeah*

*The very same God that spins things in orbit  
Runs to the weary, the worn and the weak  
And the same gentle hands that hold me when I'm broken  
They conquered death to bring me victory*

*Now, I know my Redeemer lives  
I know my Redeemer lives  
Let all creation testifies  
Let this life within me cries  
I know my Redeemer Lives ...*

*To take away my shame  
My Redeemer lives forever, I'll proclaim  
Payment for my sin  
Was the precious life given  
But now He's alive and  
There's an empty grave...*

*And I know my Redeemer lives  
I know my Redeemer lives  
Let all creation testify  
Let life within me cry  
I know my Redeemer*

*My Redeemer lives*

## THANKSGIVING OF THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

## BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful bless us, keep us, and give us peace.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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