



**Worship Bulletin: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 (6:30 PM)**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water, you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**A: Blessed be God now and forever.**

P: By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**A: Blessed be God now and forever.**

P: In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Blessed be God now and forever.**

P: To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

## **GREETING**

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

**A: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: ACTS 4:32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

R: The word of the Lord,

**A: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALMODY:**

“Sharing the Road”  
by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

*Refrain* Sharing the Road how good it is  
Sharing the road together  
Sharing the road in harmony  
Sharing the road together  
Sharing the road together

Like fine oil running down the beard of Aaron  
Morning dew falling on a holy place  
Here God blesses, blesses life forevermore  
Oh, my siblings, what a holy thing to gather everyone *Refrain*

Let's go up going up to work and worship  
Let's go up, up, up Side by side in unity  
Here God blesses, blesses life forevermore  
Oh, my siblings, what a holy thing to gather everyone *Refrain*

When we give welcome to a friend or stranger  
When we give hospitality and love  
Here God blesses, blesses life forevermore  
Oh, my siblings, what a holy thing to gather everyone *Refrain*

**SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 1:1--2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>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—<sup>2</sup>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—<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he

who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R: The word of the Lord,

**A: Thanks be to God!**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P: Alleluia.

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

P: Alleluia.

### **GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31**

P: The holy Gospel according to John,

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

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

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

<sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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."

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>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."

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

P: The gospel of the Lord,

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

The Strife is O'er, The Battle Done"

by interpreted by Dan Gresh



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting



vic - tor's tri - umph won! Now be the  
 le - gions has dis - persed. Let shouts of  
 glo - rious from the dead. All glo - ry  
 heav'n's high por - tals fell. Let hymns of  
 free your ser - vants too, that we may



song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for adopting us through baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the Spirit's gifts, and nourished us through this faith community. Uphold us and all your servants and unite the hearts of all your adopted children. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**A: Amen.**

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**A: I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**A: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**A: 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.**

P: You have publicly professed your faith. Will you continue to live into your baptism: gathering with the baptized, hearing God's word and sharing in holy communion, proclaiming God's good news in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for universal justice and peace?

**A: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**A: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: 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.

P: 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. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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 (*specific needs may be named*). Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community (*name*). 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. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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 (*especially*). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**



## **DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**A: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**A: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**A: 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

## **SHARING OF COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Life-giving God,

**A: in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels or rulers, nor things present or to come, nor powers, nor height or depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the Creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**A: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN:**

**"I'm a Believer"  
by The Monkees**

I thought love was only true in fairy tales  
Meant for someone else but not for me  
Ah, love was out to get me  
That's the way it seemed  
Disappointment haunted all my dreams  
Then I saw her face, now I'm a believer  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind  
I'm in love, I'm a believer  
I couldn't leave her if I tried

I thought love was more or less, a givin' thing  
Seems the more I gave the less I got  
What's the use in tryin'?  
All you get is pain  
When I needed sunshine, I got rain  
Ah, then I saw her face, now I'm a believer  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind  
I'm in love, I'm a believer  
I couldn't leave her if I tried, ah  
Ah, love was out to get me  
Now, that's the way it seemed  
Disappointment haunted all my dreams  
Ah, then I saw her face, now I'm a believer  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind  
I'm in love, ah, I'm a believer  
I couldn't leave her if I tried  
Yes, I saw her face, now I'm a believer  
No, not a trace of doubt in my mind  
Said I'm a believer, yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah (I'm a believer)  
Said I'm a believer, yeah (I'm a believer)  
Said I'm a believer, yeah (I'm a believer)

**DISMISSAL**

P: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**