



# Worship for the Season of Easter 2021 New England Synod, ELCA

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## Gathering

### Easter Acclamation

*Members of the New England Synod*

### Welcome

*Bishop James Hazelwood*

### Easter Acclamation (Continued)

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*Pr. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this the Connecticut River, for the Merrimack, Kennebec, Penobscot, and Housatonic Rivers; for Lake Sebago, Lake Champlain, and Lake Winnepesaukee; for Casco Bay, Massachusetts Bay, Narragansett Bay, and Cape Cod Bay; for the Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Song: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Pr. Stephanie Kershner and Josh Quillen, Emanuel Lutheran, Manchester, CT

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #364



M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,  
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.  
Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.



A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,  
For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
He who gives life did death un - der - go,  
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.



m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.  
e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
and in its con - quest his might did show.  
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

*Refrain*



Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.  
Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.  
Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;  
Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.  
Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won."  
*Refrain*

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.  
*Refrain*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: MFURAHINI, HALELUYA, Tanzanian traditional

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Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

*Donna Kerry, Synod Vice President, First Lutheran, Malden, MA*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Lead us forward, with the joy of Mary Magdalene, to proclaim that we have seen the Lord, so that all the world may celebrate with you the banquet of your peace.

**Amen.**

## **Word**

### **Reading: Genesis 9:8-17**

*Bill Nesheim, Synod Council, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Laconia, NH*

A reading from Genesis:

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The Word is alive among us!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 46



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- <sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge and strength,  
a very present | help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**  
**and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters | rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**  
**the holy habitation of | the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- <sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**  
**God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup>The Lord of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,**  
**what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
- <sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**  
**I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**
- <sup>11</sup>The Lord of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

### Reading: Rough Translations by Jan Richardson

*Priscilla Meléndez, Synod Council, Bethesda Lutheran, New Haven, CT*

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### Children's Sermon

*Pr. Bill Barter, Associate to the Bishop*

## Gospel Acclamation



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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## Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

*Katherine Lindberg, Synod Council, Immanuel Lutheran, Holden, MA*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*Pr. Sara Anderson, Associate to the Bishop*

Christ is Risen! Risen Indeed, Alleluia! We shout this proclamation with great joy, with hope, don't we? Eager to take out the Alleluia's buried from lent, shake the dustiness of Ash Wednesday away, rise from the sorrow of good Friday, leave the fasting of lent behind for feasting. In years past our Easter celebrations have always been ones of great joy, gathering with family in bright Easter clothing, laughing as children searched for bold colored plastic eggs already giddy on too much sugar from the early morning resurrection rolls baked and devoured in the early hours of Easter Sunday, singing and trumpets boldly proclaiming in worship, the resurrection hope of Christ Risen!

Perhaps, it's because, this year, we continue to move through a pandemic as we enter into this Easter season and while the hymns are still sung, while the tables are still set, and the alleluias still lifted... it's remained a smaller affair that I encounter our gospel text a little differently. I focused first on the earthquake, this time almost felt it in my bones, this shifting not just of earth, a rattling not just of the physical ground but for those women standing at the tomb, a shifting of their perspective, a rattling of their carefully held expectations. Something big is underway. They stand on a precipice of something new even as they yearn for what was, they come with grief and in this moment before understanding comes, everyone is rattled.

I feel it this year. I feel it. I see it. I wonder about it. Are we too, standing with the women, in this moment of time, rattled, grieving, curious, dutiful, about to realize something new. Could we, weary travelers of a pandemic be standing on the edge of a resurrection moment?

As a preacher, if I'm honest, I've always focused on this moment as an opportunity to proclaim the hope of the resurrection, to encourage the sharing of the message, and to send folks out to act on the good news lifted up and inspired.

It feels then, like this is new. Because in a new way, I noticed, that the women, those brave, dutiful, weary, grieving, boldly proclaiming women, they went not just with Great Joy. They went too with FEAR. They held the fear and joy within those rattled bodies, those weary hearts. Fear was not erased. Or ignored. Or forgotten. And yet, it also could not hold them back. Fear danced amidst their great joy, and they with it.

I have always said that Good Friday is my favorite worship experience of the whole liturgical year because I need to sit in the dark before I can stand in the light. The resurrection isn't a promise of ease, of comfort, of blessings of protection from all suffering- though, I sometimes think that's just what we yearn to proclaim with our Easter celebrations. Instead, the resurrection is a gift of hope that meets us even as we grieve. It's the gift that invites us to dance with fear and know joy alongside it.

In our Forward Leadership Community we have a whole seminar on 'dancing with fear' as a communities of faith. We invite the congregations gathered as part of the Forward Leadership Community to see what might be broken, to acknowledge the fear of what could be lost, to name the earth rattling moments that have passed or that loom on the horizon, so that we can dance with the fear toward the promise not just of life as we've known it but of resurrection.

We hold so much fear. Fear of loss (loss of members, loss of clergy, loss of buildings) Fear of losing our way. Fear of shifting priorities. Fear of what is yet unknown. Fear of losing control.

Our congregations in so many ways are living through fear filled moments- a pandemic, dramatic change, fear for the future, for the changes—are we dying? Declining? But, I wonder, as I feel the quakes in my bones. Are we standing with the women, on the edge of the tomb. Are we too, on the edge of discovering a resurrection moment? Are we not dying but becoming a new Church, called to new expressions of God's promise? Can we dance with the fear to the joy of a resurrection moment.

We, God's beloveds, have carried the promise of God's love for us, God's redeeming care for us,

through time and space, through all of creation. God's claiming us, God's promise to us, has always been a living flowing gift, meeting God's people again and again.

The Holy spirit moved over creation breathing life into the dust and that same Spirit continues to move in our lives, meeting us in rooms locked in fear and offering peace to be shared.

I don't mean that in some distant, theological or theoretical way, either.

I mean, that as resurrection people, our very lives embody that spirit, animate that peace and we carry it with us, through our very actions of taking the next step in fear and with great joy.

I've seen this embodied in my great grandmother, survivor of the Armenian Genocide. She once sat at our holiday table and upon seeing someone walk past the house, who reminded her of her need to flee her home, she dove under the dining room table in terror. She was 90 years old. Her grandsons had to help coax her from hiding. She trembled as she recalled the devastation of leaving her family behind standing in their vineyard under cover of darkness, never to set eyes on each other again. And then, with voice still trembling, she pulled us, her great grandchildren close, and reminded us of the promise of Noah. (She always told us in these times that Noah's Ark landed on Mt. Ararat whose rightful country is Armenia and that made us all descendants of an Armenian). She proclaimed, with fear AND great joy, that God's love for us is not a story told to children but our very inheritance, hope to which we cling, even through tears of grief, even as our bodies tremble and our voices shake, even as the world as we've known it changes all around us.

The promise of the rainbow wasn't for Noah alone, the promise is carried on, to you and me, to all God's beloved. Not as a static moment. So, too, is our resurrection promise, not just a static story of the past but an invitation, a call to action, an ongoing reality, experienced, and discovered in new ways, again and again.

Just as Jacob wrestled with God, our own wrestling is an echo of these ongoing encounters, we walk roads of wilderness, desperate to turn back time, to revisit places of comfort. We cry out with the people of Israel to return to what we've known because we are unsure, we are uncertain, we are uncomfortable. And yet, if we join the women at empty tomb, as we feel the earth quake, as we experience the trembling deep within, as fear lives in us because we do not know the road ahead, we have the wisdom of the ages, we the gift of the Spirit, and the promise of the resurrection calling us, not to GO BACK but to trust in faith, that before us lays the road to Emmaus- a new encounter with Christ revealed to us.

In that hope, in trust of the resurrection, we go in FEAR and with Great Joy to discover new moments in our lives where we not only encounter Christ but our eyes are open to a more powerful truth, to a stronger hope, a more vibrant Church. Fear, loss, grief, they are our companions but so too are hope, promise, and the resurrection truth. We dance with fear while clinging to joy and the promise of what is to come. The Lord of hosts is with us, The God of Jacob, and Noah, The God of Martha and Esther, The God of You and Me is our strong hold. Amen.

## Song: Be Not Afraid

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 388*



Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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## Prayer and Testimony

### A Prayer by Akanu Ibaim

*found in An African Prayer Book compiled by Desmond Tutu*

*Brian Rajcok, Synod Council, St. Matthew Lutheran, Avon, CT*

O Lord, we beseech thee to deliver us from the fear of the unknown future; from fear of failure; from fear of poverty; from fear of bereavement; from fear of loneliness; from fear of sickness and pain; from fear of age; and from fear of death. Help us, O God, by thy grace to love and fear thee only, fill our hearts with cheerful courage and loving trust in thee; through our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Testimony

*Cassandra Wilson, Synod Council, Redeemer Lutheran, Woburn, MA*

After the company I worked for for 25 years was acquired, the new company offered me the job of my dreams. So I packed my bags and moved to New England all hopeful, only to find my new dream job was a dream – it was a nightmare. I found myself out of work eight months later with no idea what to do. I hardly knew anyone here. It was awful! And I kept feeling that God was calling me somewhere but I had no clue where it was. It was just terrifying. I didn't know whether to go backwards or forward or what to do.



So I went job hunting, and one day on LinkedIn I saw an ad for a class about starting your own business, and I figured I had time to kill while job hunting. I signed up for the class. They said I needed a business idea so I threw something down on paper. I realized then it was maybe the only time I could really try something because there was nothing else going on.

Well at one point, while building out the business plan and getting financing – or figuring out how I was going to finance it – I had to figure out whether I was going to give the business my all or go back to looking for a traditional job. Something in my heart, though, kept nudging me toward the business, toward this risk that was so scary. It was terrifying! Because what if I fail? Am I being irresponsible? Should I be spending my valuable time and energy looking for a job or doing this pipe dream of building a business.

So instead of focusing on what I didn't know, I tried to focus on what was happening, what was happening right then and there. I found that people were responding to the business, which kind of kept me motivated. And after my first couple clients thanked me profusely for having started what I'd done, I realized I was in the right place. Looking I realized I never would have started my business had everything else not been completely stripped away and I could actually, finally hear God's voice in my head.

### **Prayer from *Liturgies from Below***

*Paul Lindahl, Synod Council, Nativity Lutheran, North Conway, NH*

God of all ages and God of love, who sees and hears your people at all times. We have seen you acting and sustaining us in amidst our challenges and hopelessness. In times of hunger you provided food for us to eat. When we had no place to lay our heads you provided us with shelter. When we are faced with death, we have seen your hand of protection. Amidst sickness you have given us hope and courage to live on, not to give up; to stand strong and not to be selfish with the responsibilities you have entrusted us with. Therefore, dear God, we continue praying that you give us hope amidst hopelessness, courage in times of despair, healing in times of sickness, provision in times of lack, protection in times of danger to live and hope for a better world through Jesus Christ who is our sustainer, provider, and protector. We pray, **Amen.**

### **Testimony**

*Pr. Christopher Gilbert, Synod Council, St. Ansgar Lutheran, Portland, ME*

By the time news broke on September 22, 2010, Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University, became the fifth gay teen to die by suicide in a three-week period. I was heartbroken. I didn't know what I believed. As a gay person myself, and as someone who was bullied as a teen, I was hurting for these kids and their families. And as someone who bore witness to how much the world had changed for the better since I was a teenager, I was angry at the systems of the world and how they were failing the next generation. Out of this horror the columnist Dan Savage and his husband Terry started the "It Gets Better" movement. If you remember it was a project of videos that featured people speaking directly to teens letting them know that they were loved and they were seen and that if they could just get through this moment in time with their ancestors at their back, a bounty of possibilities awaited them.

I saw those videos, too, and in November a very special one came across my feed. It was then Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Hanson. It was the "It Gets Better" video from the church. In it he said these words to my community and he said them to me: "You are a beloved

child of God. Your life carries the dignity and beauty of God's creation. God has called you by name and claimed you forever. There is a place in this world for you and for you in the church."

I kid you not, it was quite literally in that moment that the fire of my faith was rekindled. My faith and belief in this thing we call the church, unlike the systems of the world, this was a place where hope lived! Hope in the possibility of life and justice in our world, in our time. I don't know if it will surprise you, but six months after that that I was baptized in the ELCA, having never been as a child. For me this really was a resurrection moment. It was a rainbow of new life.

### **Prayer from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Pr. Erica Kennedy, Synod Council, Trinity Lutheran, Chelmsford, MA*

Our loving Father, from Thy hand have come all the days of the past. To thee we look for whatever good the future holds. We are not satisfied with the world as we have found it. It is too little the kingdom of God as yet. Grant us the privilege of a part in its regeneration. We are looking for a new earth in which dwells righteousness. It is our prayer that we may be children of light, the kind of people for whose coming and ministry the world is waiting. **Amen.**

### **Testimony**

*Ali Thayer, Synod Council, Immanuel Lutheran, Attleboro, MA*

In the summer of 2010 I took a week of my vacation and went to work at Camp Calumet for the week and took a group of 4 campers on a bunch of hikes, and after I returned back to New Jersey and knew that I couldn't stay in my job any more as an auditor. So I began the almost-year-long process of becoming a Teach for America corps member. So throughout the rest of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 I walked through all the steps that were required to make this huge change: leave this job I had gone to college for, take a pay cut, and completely uproot the life that I had started in New Jersey and move back to New England.

That was a scary time, but I was just taking it one step at a time and really relied on the faith community that I had found in New Jersey and relied on my family and friends and trusted that I was being called and led in the right direction. While it was really anxiety-inducing to go through the process and deciding whether I was going to make this huge life change, I'm glad I did it. I'm back in New England. I met my husband through friends from Teach for America. It was ultimately the right choice, but definitely danced with fear while I was working through that process to make that change.

### **Prayer by Thomas Merton**

*Ade Monareb, Synod Council, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Newington, NH*

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. **Amen.**

## Offering and Prayers

### Invitation to Stewardship of Creation

*Adapted from the United Nations Environmental Sabbath Service, used by permission*

*Pr. Nancy Wright, Pr. Cindy Jacobsen, Pr. Steven Wilco, members of New England Synod Green Team*

We rejoice in all life. We live in all things. All things live in us.

**We rejoice in all life.**

We live by the sun. We move with the stars.

**We rejoice in all life.**

We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain. We breathe from the air.

**We rejoice in all life.**

We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their secrets.

**We rejoice in all life.**

We have the privilege of seeing and understanding. We have the responsibility of caring. We have the joy of celebrating.

We are full of the grace of creation. We are graceful. We are grateful. We rejoice in all life.

In a spirit of grace, gratitude, and joy, yet also acknowledging the pain of creation and our failure to care for the earth, we invite you today to offer to God your commitment to be good stewards of creation. You might commit to consuming less, to taking action locally or nationally to fight climate change, or to engaging your congregation in signing the [congregational covenant with Lutherans Restoring Creation](#). If you are looking for resources to help you in your commitment, you can contact the green team through the [synod website](#).

Let us pray.

O God, we have forgotten who we are: people intimately connected with creation. Renew in us the joy of all life, that we may live from a place of gratitude and learn to be faithful stewards of the world God created. **Amen.**

### Words of Gratitude and Invitation to Offering

*Thank you for your generosity in so many ways – to your community, to your congregation, and to God's work in the world. We invite you into a time of offering as a reminder that all we have is given to us by God. We encourage you to consider taking this time to give financially to your congregation. If you are moved, you are also invited to make a donation of individual mission support to the New England Synod at [www.nelutherans.org/donate](http://www.nelutherans.org/donate) or by sending a check to New England Synod, PO Box 13, Worcester, MA 01614.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Mark Winzler, Associate to the Bishop*

Full of both fear and joy, we pray boldly for the needs of the world:

We pray for the church. For pastors and deacons, for bishops and council presidents, for committee chairs. For those new to the faith and those returning to the faith after absence. For churches in discernment for their future. Resurrect our world, for Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We pray for the earth. For farmers and gardeners planting seeds. For communities experiencing or healing from flood, fire, and storm. For lands and peoples already experiencing destruction from climate change. For those giving voice to the cries of plants and animals. Resurrect our world, for Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We pray for world. For political and economic leaders, judges and lawmakers, mayors and tribal leaders. For an end to war, violence, and division. For an end to racism in our hearts and in our communities. For an end to oppression and poverty. For a safe home for refugees and immigrants. Resurrect our world, for Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We pray for those in need of healing. For those grieving losses from COVID-19. For those who are sick, hurting, or hospitalized. For those who are overcome by grief, depression, anxiety, or fear. For those uncertain of their future. Resurrect our world, for Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We pray in thanksgiving for the saints. For our fellow saints on earth who challenge us and encourage us. For the saints before us who carried on the message of God's faithfulness. For the saints yet to come for whom we proclaim the good news. Resurrect our world, for Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We gather these prayers and all you see we need joining in these words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: O God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus the Christ. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. We ask you, O God, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawning. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

*Pr. Kyle Seibert, Synod Council, Our Savior Lutheran, Hanover, MA*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Sending**

### **Resurrection Dialogue from the African American Heritage Hymnal**

*Kim Bergstrand, Associate to the Bishop & Pr. Anne Deneen, Synod Council*

On that first Easter Morning, as the sun was dawning, Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead. The earth shook as the angel rolled the stone away.

**No grave could hold his body down. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed!**

As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary looked on in fear, the Risen Lord revealed himself to them, and they departed with joy.

**Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! For Christ Jesus has broken the curse of death and destroyed the power that it once had over us.**

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now given to each of us and to all those who believe on him.

**Let us receive this spiritual power and use it wisely for the liberation of all God's people!**

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord. For there is none like him who can break the chain of oppression, evil, and the grave. He is risen and is seated at the right hand of God.

**Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**

Who is worthy? Christ is worthy. Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives all fear is gone. Because I know he holds the future and life is worth the living just because he lives.

**Christ is worthy! The Risen Christ! The Resurrected One! Praise him! Praise Christ's Holy Name!**

## **Blessing in the Words of John O'Donohue**

*Bishop James Hazelwood*

For a New Beginning:

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

## Song: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Mike Lembke & Pr. Heidi Lembke Johnston, Faith Lutheran, Quincy, MA

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Sources of Liturgical Texts:

*Thanksgiving for Baptism: All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement*, copyright 2020 by Augsburg Fortress (1517 Media), p. 10-11 of the assembly edition (with the names of some of the major New England bodies of water included)

*Prayer of the Day: Adapted from prayers from Revised Common Lectionary*, copyright 2002 by the Consultation on Common Texts. Accessed via <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

*Reading: Rough Translations by Jan Richardson: In print in Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson*, copyright 2015 by Wanton Gospeller Press, p. 108. Available online at <https://paintedprayerbook.com/2012/02/26/day-9-hoping-against-hope/>

*Prayer by Akanu Ibaim: "Deliver us from fear of the unknown" from An African Prayer Book edited by Desmond Tutu*, copyright 2004 by Double Storey Books, p. 104.

*Prayers by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: From Thou, Dear God: Prayers that Open Hearts and Spirits by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Edited by Lewis V. Baldwin*, copyright 2012 by Beacon Press. Standalone prayer: "A New Earth in which Dwells Righteousness" p. 109; Conclusion of prayers of intercession: "Love Even our Enemy Neighbors" p. 131

*Prayer from Liturgies from Below: Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the Earth*, edited by Claudio Carvalhaes, copyright 2020 by Abingdon Press. "Prayer from Experience" p. 256.

*Prayer from Thomas Merton: from Thoughts on Solitude*, widely accessible online including here: <https://onbeing.org/blog/thomas-mertons-prayer-that-anyone-can-pray/>

*Resurrection Dialogue: African American Heritage Hymnal* copyright 2001 by GLA Publications, #68

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## Sources of Music:

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#364 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia – Steel Drum arrangement by Josh Quillen

#174 Celtic Alleluia

#388 Be Not Afraid

#367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds – arrangement by Mike Lembke