

The background is a complex, abstract composition of vertical stripes and textured brushstrokes. The colors range from deep blues and purples at the top to warm oranges and reds in the middle, and finally to light greens and yellows at the bottom. The overall effect is one of organic, layered growth and renewal.

Church Anew &
the Minneapolis Area Synod

SECOND SUNDAY OF
Easter

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Synod worship service:[insert link]



GATHERING

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we give thanks for the Great Exchange,
the mercy and forgiveness that wrap
our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For a word at the dawn of creation,
which spoke water and life into being.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the great flood that revealed nature's power
and God's commitment to life after death.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the river that carried Moses safely,
building a bridge between mothers and nations.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the rock split open in the desert,
spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the gift of holy baptism,
which declares there are no more godforsaken places,
and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.
For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation;
our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation.
Cleanse our fears. Drown our division.
Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives
are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched
thanks be to the risen Jesus, the Son of God.

Amen.

SONG

Now the Green Blade Rises, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 379

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958
Text from Oxford Book of Carols © Oxford University Press 1928.
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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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Your Love Is Everlasting (Dakota Road)

Since time began, through centuries
God's love is everlasting
To distant unknown galaxies
God's love is everlasting
Splendor springs forth 'cross the land
God's love is everlasting
Abundance, sharing hand in hand
God's love is everlasting

Chorus:

Your love (your love) is lasting
Your love is everlasting
Your love (your love) is lasting
Your love is everlasting

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A mother's womb, a brand new life
God's love is everlasting
An empty tomb, the risen Christ
God's love is everlasting
Weeping may last for the night
God's love is everlasting
But joy breaks forth with morning light
God's love is everlasting (Chorus)

Signs of hope, a voice of peace
God's love is everlasting
The prophet's cry for war to cease
God's love is everlasting
For the down and out,
for the high and proud
God's love is everlasting
Come all you people shout out loud
God's love is everlasting (Chorus)

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. John Hulden

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 535

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



READING

Acts 4:32-37

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. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto

A Community of Good(s)

HYMN OF THE DAY

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

Refrain

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice, and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

Refrain

For just and unjust, a place at the table.
For used and unused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

Refrain

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

Refrain

EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ is Risen

Christ is Risen Indeed

Christ is Risen

Christ is Risen Indeed

Christ is Risen

Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*At the beginning,
middle, and end of
the intercessions, the
assembly is invited to
respond in song:*

**Hope of all creation,
Healer of relations,
We lift our prayer to you.
We lift our prayer to you.**

Loving God, we praise you for the resurrection dawn. Nurture our faith that, even in our trials, we trust your love that is stronger than death. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of grace, you enter into our locked places with a liberating word of peace. Breathe your Spirit upon us, restore and free us to embrace the world with renewed hope and courage. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of new life, like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore the waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Guide our steps that we might walk gently on the earth. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, your reign is justice and peace. Help us to live this new life of mutuality, just distribution, and sustainable sharing. Guide the nations and governments to lead in the ways that make for peace with justice. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you invite us to touch your wounds so that we may believe. Help us to believe that you feel our wounds and the suffering of all creation. Bring your healing and peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid, especially those we name in our hearts before you now (silence). God in mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We praise you for the resurrection promise of life everlasting. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives of those who have gone before us (especially). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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 risen Savior.

Amen.

*Prayed in the
Oromo language*

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PEACE

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

SONG

Salaam Eleikum (May Peace Be With You)

Salaam eleikum le
Salaam eleikum le
Salaam eleikum le
Salaam eleikum le x2

Leader/Call: Salaam eleikum
Everyone: Ho-ya!
Leader/Call: Salaam eleikum
Everyone: Ho-ya!
Leader/Call: Salaam eleikum
Everyone: Ho-ya, Ho-ya, Ho-ya, Ho-ya, Ho-ya

Traditional, Ghana
Arr. Marty Haugen
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May Peace Be In Your Heart
May Peace Be In Your Home
May Peace Be In Your Land
May Peace Be In Your World x2

OFFERING

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Language: Arabic
Country: Ghana

You are encouraged to
contribute your tithes and
offerings to your local
congregation

SENDING

BLESSING

The holy Three,
the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,
deepen your love,
and ✝ grant you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Go Now with God (Vamos con Dios)

Filled with the Holy Spirit
Go now with God, go now with God
Into the world as a servant
Go now with God, go now with God

Chorus:

Go now, go now, go now with God
Go now, go now, go now with God

Offering a hand to a stranger
Go now with God, go now with God
Trusting in the risen savior
Go now with God, go now with God
(Chorus)

Waters of mercy have found us
Go now with God, go now with God
Grace on the journey surrounds us
Go now with God, go now with God
(Chorus)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The risen Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Salaam Eleikum (May Peace Be With You)

Special Thanks

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American Sign Language interpreters.

Worship Leaders:

Presiding Minister, Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Assisting Minister, Pastor Wondimu Sonessa,
Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church

Children's Message, Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop

Preacher, Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto, Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New
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