



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
April 18, 2021

*Thought for the Day before Worship*

*There are only two ways to live your life.  
One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

*– Albert Einstein*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**                    *“The God of Abraham Praise”*            (Hal Hopson)

**Introit**

**Tower Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: If we have died with Christ, we shall also rise with Christ.

M: **Risen from the dead! Christ will never die! For death has no power over Him.**

L: For his death was a death to sin; his life a life for God.

M: **Alleluia! Our hope is in Jesus Christ!!**

L: Jesus Christ will lift us into glory! Alleluia!

M: **Thanks be to God!**

L: Let us Worship our God!!

## **\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Our great and glorious God, immortal and transcendent, present in creation yet beyond it, we praise you. We Worship you, the holy one who chose to experience our sensual life that we might experience your mystical Spirit. Teach us to respond with readiness to the nudges of your Spirit. May we glorify you in our nature and through our obedient service. Invade our fellowship with the graceful gift of your presence, we pray, and transform us by your power.**

**God of Joy, we confess that we are people motivated more by fear than love, and we don't know why. We know how to build walls and make rules and set boundaries. We know how to feel guilty. We are good at trying to make ourselves, and everyone else, conform to some ideal we have decided you want.**

**We confess we don't know what to do with your unconditional love. We don't know how to respond to your joyful surprises. We are afraid to stand under the flood of your miracle and wonder and goodness and healing. Fold us in your comforting presence and bless us into courage so that we can join the dance at your side. Drench us in trust in the name of the One who trusted you even on the cross, even Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**P: Hear the Good News! Christ appeared in order to reign victorious over the effects of sin, to assure humanity of forgiveness, and to show forth the transcendent power of God. We who believe in Christ are no longer merely part of the material world, but we are alive in Christ to the fuller life of the spiritual world. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!**

**M: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Creatorex)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson**

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?*Selah*

<sup>3</sup> But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.

<sup>4</sup> When you are disturbed,<sup>[a]</sup> do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.*Selah*

<sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

<sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup> I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

**Anthem**

*“Praise the Everlasting King!” (Lloyd Larson)*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing.  
Praise Him for His grace and favor to all people in distress.  
Praise Him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us; All our hopes and fears He knows.  
In His hands, He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.  
Let us then adore Him, living God of love and grace!  
Earth and heaven bow down before Him; all who dwell in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King! Amen.

**Scripture Lesson** From the Letters to the Entire Church: 1 John 3:1-7

**3** <sup>1</sup> See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he<sup>[a]</sup> is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **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.**

### **Offertory Invitation**

Our Stewardship of God's gifts to us can provide a place at the table for some who are hungry, and shelter for some who have no place to lay their heads. But most of all, our offerings express thanks to God for the bounty we enjoy and the loving acceptance we have known through Christ.

### **Offertory**

*“Sing Out a Song!”*

*(Don Besig)*

Sing out a song, sing out a song, sing out a song unto the Lord.

Let the people rejoice, lift up your voice. Let joyful anthems resound.

Let all nations be glad this day, and give thanks to God for all His love.

Let all people arise and say; “He is marvelous.

He is wonderful. He is ruler of earth and heaven above!”

Come rejoice, lift up your voice. Sing out a song!

### **Scripture Lesson**

From the History of the New Testament: Acts 3:12-19

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites,<sup>[a]</sup> why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant<sup>[b]</sup> Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you rejected the

Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup> “And now, friends,<sup>[d]</sup> I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah<sup>[e]</sup> would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

**Sermon** “Turn to God” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**Hymn** “*Christ Is Alive!*”  
(see next page)

**Benediction**

**Choral Response**

**Postlude** “*Trumpet Tune*” (Stanley Vann)

**Today’s Worship Leaders:**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Tom Williams

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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## Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.