

* = Please stand *as you are comfortable*.

Bold type indicates congregational responses.

- **Welcome! No matter your background, circumstance, or footing in faith your presence is valued and celebrated as a part of the beloved community of God today.**
- *Your generosity is appreciated and encouraged as it makes a difference in the lives of many. Gifts and offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance before, during, or after the service. To give electronically, please visit richfield-lutheran.org/give*

As we gather...

The scripture for this 4th Sunday of Easter follows disciples, Paul and Silas, as they continue to share about Jesus in Grecco-Roman communities. Astoundingly their message contains the same authority and power as Jesus and likewise puts them at odds with the economic and political powers that be. They continue in praise and faith even as they suffer arrest and abuse. We might contemplate how Jesus’ message of faith leads us to acts of service, challenges similar norms, and encourages our perseverance in praise, even amid suffering.

I. GATHERING

PRELUDE *When In our Music God is Glorified* **SETTING BY ROBERT HOBBY**
(The prelude gathers us in the Lord’s presence. You are invited to center through it.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and God’s courts with praise!
For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever!
and God’s faithfulness to all generations.
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Together set us confess all which keeps us from love of God and our neighbors as ourselves...

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess we have often turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. In your compassion forgive us our sin, known and unknown, that which we have done, and that which we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Holy Spirit, that we would live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen one.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and makes us alive together with Christ. By grace we are saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sin is forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit in new life and freedom now and always.

Alleluia and Amen!

*** GATHERING HYMN**

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW #391

*** GREETING**

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

And also with you.

*** KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

ELW #393 v. 1 & 3

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To whom the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia! Alleluia!

"This is the Savior!" thus they say, "this is his glorious triumph day!"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God of freedom, as Paul, Silas, and saints past and present have worshiped you even when faced with hardship and bondage, embolden our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations and trust that your promised presence finds us through the power of our ever-living Savior and your Holy and gracious Spirit. Amen.

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-40

(Paul and Silas are led by the Spirit to Philippi, where they are welcomed by Lydia's household who then become believers. Paul and Silas then find themselves at odds with community members when they heal a woman.)

¹⁶ One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

³⁵ When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, "The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore

come out now and go in peace.”³⁷ But Paul replied, “They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison, and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.”³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,³⁹ so they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.⁴⁰ After leaving the prison they went to Lydia’s home, and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*** GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-23**

(Jesus heals, cures, and casts out unclean spirits of people and follows it by proclaiming God’s blessing upon people in need and suffering.)

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When in Our Music God Is Glorified
(Please stand for the final verse.)

ELW #851

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Nicene Creed**

(Drafted at the Council of Nicaea in 325 c.e., the Nicene Creed further defined the relationship of the Triune God. The word “catholic” here means “universal,” noting believers of all times, places, and traditions.)

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 and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.)

III. THANKSGIVING

CHOIR ANTHEM

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW #592

*** OFFERTORY**

Create in Me

ELW #186

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each petition:

...Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

*** 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.

IV. SENDING

***COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*** BLESSING**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope and live in love, through the Triune God.

Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW #860

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

arr. Gene Robertson

(The postlude sends us out to be Christ's peace in the world. You are invited to savor it.)

(Our service continues with invitation to refreshments in community together in the Fellowship Hall, across the hall; and then in the world with all our neighbors.)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon, April 27. Psalm 100

Tues, April 28. Hebrews 13:20-21

Wed, April 29. Jeremiah 23:1-8

Thurs, April 30. Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Fri, May 1. John 14:8-14

Sat, May 2. Jeremiah 26:20-25

Next week in worship...

It will be the 5th Sunday of Easter, and we'll hear how the Apostle Paul tailored the message of the gospel to others. We'll witness how he did not condemn others, rather sought common

ground, valued differing cultures, and offered God's grace in making peace with us, rather than us needing to make peace with God. It's a great example for how we might live in faith and also how we might share in neighborliness with all God's beloved people. Tune in to hear more!

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