

April 11, 2021
2nd Sunday of Easter



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Lisa Ellwoods

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*To view the worship video please follow this link: <https://youtu.be/sttwOHMzeco>
For those worshipping with the video please read along whenever the text is bold.*

PRELUDE

Finale from Sonata 6

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CONFESSES SINS TO GOD. Moreover, the prodigal son and the publican in the Gospel, when compared with the Pharisee, present us with the most suitable pattern of how our sins are to be confessed to God. The former said: “ ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants’ ” (Luke 15:8 ff.). And the latter, not daring to raise his eyes to heaven, beat his breast, saying, “God be merciful to me a sinner” (ch. 18:13). And we do not doubt that they were accepted by God into grace. For the apostle John says: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:9 f.). -The Second Helvetic Confession

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who seek you

rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation

say evermore, “God is great!”

But I am poor and needy;

hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer;

O Lord, do not delay!

OPENING HYMN

#238 Thine is the Glory

1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. **(Refrain)**

Refrain:
Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. **(Refrain)**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong.

Trusting in the grace of God let us make our confession.

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the ignorance of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ you Son. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:
By grace we have been saved through faith,
and this is not our own doing;
it is the gift of God—
not by works,
so that no one can boast.

**We are what God has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand
to be our way of life.**

RESPONSE

Blessed be the Lord, who has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open the scriptures to us by the power of your Spirit that in them we might hear your word for us today and be formed as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 4:32-35 (NRSV)

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

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

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

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

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed

because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

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

EPISTLE READING

1 John 1:1-2:2 (NRSV)

^{1:1}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 — ²this 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 — ³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

MESSAGE

Pastor Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING ANTHEM

We Have Seen the Risen Lord

Pethel

*Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life.
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



*OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All thanks and praise to you O God, maker of the cosmos and all that is within it. We come to you in gratitude for this, another day of life in your beautiful creation. We give you thanks for the call you have placed on our lives, for your grace made known in Jesus Christ, and for this family of faith into which you have adopted us. In the silence of our hearts we lift to you now all for which we are grateful...

We give you thanks that when we call to you in prayer you do not leave our intercessions unheard.

In recognition of this truth we pray for the needs of the church, the whole of humanity, and the world.

We pray for your Church, that we and all its members may be faithful disciples; living the way of Jesus, loving you with all that we are and loving all our neighbors as we love ourselves.

We pray for this earth you have created; that it might be freed from the ravages of war, disease, and pollution.

We pray for those in positions of leadership across this nation and around the globe; may they lead with wisdom, justice, humility, and mercy.

We pray for all who suffer from illness or injury, especially all those with COVID19 and its effects. We pray also for the doctors, nurses, medical professionals, and caregivers seeking the healing of others. We ask for your healing presence to be made known to all in need.

We pray for those in our community in the midst of grief... We pray for those in our community whose family members are in need of healing and comfort.... Surround them all with your gracious Spirit.

We pray for our community of Buffalo and all communities in our nation that have been touched by the horrors of gun violence. Give us courage and wisdom to work for peace and nonviolent solutions to conflict. Give healing in mind, body, and spirit to all in need. And bring forth the day when swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

We pray for those essential workers, who enable the basics of life to continue for so many during this pandemic, including grocery and convenience store workers, those in shipping and transportation, farmers, emergency service personnel, and those working in assisted living and nursing care facilities. We also pray for all who work to manufacture and distribute vaccines that will enable us to move forward as a society and species. Strengthen all of them in their continued work and grant them much needed rest.

We pray for all who struggle for justice; devoting themselves to ending white supremacy, sexism, ableism, transphobia, and all systems of hate, fear, and oppression. Encourage and empower us to seek justice for all people.

We pray for those who do not have enough to eat, who don't have a safe place to call home, who struggle to maintain the basic necessities of life. May all people have enough.

We pray for all the silent intentions of our hearts and minds...

Hear these our prayers, O God of mercy, and strengthen us for all that is ahead, until the day when you usher us into the blessed Kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

CLOSING HYMN

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er
spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.

#817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

2 We may not touch your hands and
side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

4 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Douglas Wagner

WORSHIP NOTES

MUSIC LICENSES

Opening Hymn. Text by Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt. Tune by George Frederick Handel, 1748.

Anthem: We Have Seen the Risen Lord Words and music by Stan Pethel Copyright 1995 by Hope Publishing Company

Closing Hymn. Text by Henry Alford, 1844, alt. Tune by Samuel McFarland, c. 1814; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting: The Session has called a congregational meeting **today** at 10:30am in the sanctuary for the purpose of electing officers. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work leading up to this meeting.

Garden Desk Calendars: Please pick up your 2021 desk calendar in the church office. All donations from these will be going to Buffalo Food Shelf.

Children's Sunday School: Calista Wedemier (Cherches) is teaching our children's class every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 11:30 am via Zoom. To make sure your family is on the contact list please contact Pastor Brian.

Upcoming Worship Schedule: Please join us in person on Sundays at the 9:30am worship service. Masks and social distancing will be required. Also remember to sign in for contact tracing purposes. Services will also be available online, please pay attention to your email on Sunday afternoons for worship links and bulletins.

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Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

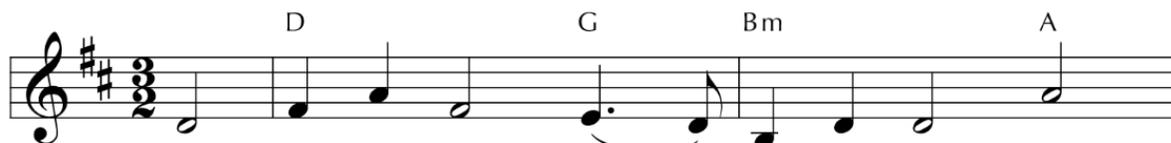
This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Ioshua* and moved to *Iudas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION

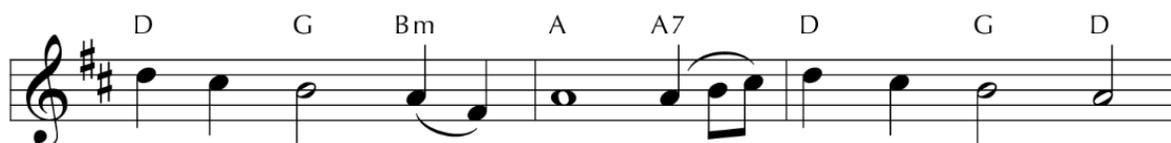
Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff. The music features a vocal melody with various note values and rests, and a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

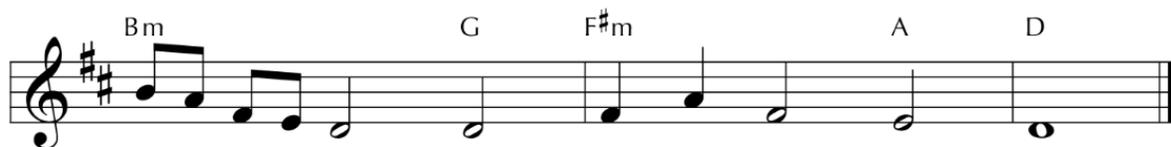
817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.