



“Gone Up With a Shout: Clap Your Hands”

Seventh Sunday of Easter - Ascension

May 16, 2021

Worship with First Lutheran Church

Welcome! Our Easter celebration continues. We are thankful for the many ways the Holy Spirit connects us together. Yes, the risen Jesus appears where we are, awakening us to a beat that will not stop stirring our hearts to move, with all creation to a song of resurrection, that not even death can stop. Come and join the dance that has no end.

**Prelude -
Welcome and Announcements**

Protocols for the congregation's safe gathering can be found on page 12.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Leader: As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them. After he ascends, they return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for continually worshiping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the “eyes of OUR hearts are enlightened?” We come to know the hope to which we have been called. And, we can wait for the Spirit with hope, celebrating with abandon, because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

[music continues softly...]

Leader: Dancing changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Greeting

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Prayer -

Let us pray,

Help us to put on our dancing shoes so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Open us to new steps for a new day.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE:

Beautiful Savior

(ELW 838)

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown..

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PSALM: Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

²For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves. R

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises. R

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ELW 172**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Time for reflection: What is moving in your heart and soul, inviting you to live more fully into Christ’s resurrection hope, justice, and love?

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION -

Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with
singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. Refrain

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. Refrain

***CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world (*local concerns may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy. Give those in authority the spirit of your love, so that all who are hungry and poor receive food and resources, and all people flourish and live in peace (*local or global places of need may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In raising Christ from the dead, you put your great power to work in the world. Raise us and all who have died in the faith with Christ. We remember saints in our lives and in our community (*especially*). Thank you for their gifts among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 Lord.

Amen.

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.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may turn in their places and greet one another with a sign / wave of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you,"*

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Leader: Next week is the last week of our Easter Season series, for this season ends with Pentecost, when the flames of the spirit danced within all people. You are the hands and feet of Christ now in the world. Let us receive our offering.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: *(Instrumental of Dare to Dance as people reflect upon what they are grateful for)*

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us to step out in mission for the world.

Praising God, Nurturing Faith, and Serving All

Benediction

Leader: May we follow the lead of the Spirit
as we find expansive ways to dance the dance of love.

And may the Loving God, Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit fill you with all you need for the days ahead.

And all God's people said, "Amen!"

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

SENDING SONG

I Cannot Dance, O Love

I cannot dance, O Love,
unless you lead me on.
I cannot leap in gladness
unless you lift me up.
From love to love we circle,
beyond all knowledge grow,
For when you lead we follow,
to new worlds you can show.

O blessed Love, your circling
unites us, God and soul.
From the beginning, your arms embrace
and make us whole.
Hold us in steps of mercy
from which you never part,
that we may know more fully
the dances of your heart.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERINGS

*Offerings may be placed in the plates as you go out from this worship to live in service to God
throughout the week.*

Or you can give online <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.

Postlude:

Worship Notes:

Image from sundaysandseasons.com

Liturgy adapted from “Dare to Dance” www.worshipdesignstudio.com/easterdance

And From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Beautiful Savior is public domain, “Halle, Halle” arr with Augsburg Fortress, “Light Dawns”

Gia publications, “I Cannot Dance” text a poem by Jean Wiebe Janzen (after Mechthild of Magdeburg, ca. 1210 - 1282), tune is an arr of a Swedish folk song held by Augsburg Fortress

Worship Team:

Piano - Daniel Hughes

Pastors - Lori Morton and Steve Neuder

AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

Office Contact Information: By Appointment T & Th 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

208-263-2048

office@firstlutheransandpoint.org

Website: www.firstlutheransandpoint.org

Announcements:

Prayer List: Christi Paulsen, Arlen Ojala, Royce Howell, Libby DeLong, Michelle Thurston, George Marker, Lynn Franck, Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, their families, and all senior living communities as we continue to learn how to live with Covid-19 as communities, in our worship, and mission as the church.

Church Office: Lisa Tyrrell, our Secretary on Council will be working with Pastor Lori to update our infrastructure and prepare for another staff search. In April and May, please be patient with your requests. Messages by phone and email will be checked regularly on the days when staff are not in the office.

Survey: Please fill out the survey on page 12 of the bulletin and return in the offering plates or mail to the church office, so the FLC Council will have this information for their meeting on May 12.

Covid - 19 Protocols for Gathering

Please note the following things to support you in your worship:

- First, thank you for adjusting to and heeding the precautions we have put in place to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus, while we gather.
- It helps your neighbor, if those who arrive first, sit toward the front in rows which are not taped off. It makes it easier for those looking for a seat, so they do not have to go up and down the aisles.
- In addition to wearing face masks, remaining 6' apart from other family groups or friend cohorts, staying home if you do not feel well, and refraining from shaking hands or hugging:
 - The Children's Playroom and Nursery is not available for use.
 - During the passing of the peace, we invite you to wave, show a peace sign, extend your arms in a gesture of blessing, etc. as you remain in your pew.
 - At the end of the worship, please wait to greet each other until you are outside. We offer two exits so you can stagger your departure and give space for your neighbor.
 - Fellowship is encouraged with social distancing, once you are outside of the building. Outside, masks are optional.
 - We requested your name and phone number in case we need to notify you of a potential exposure to Covid-19. We will heed HIPAA laws if or when the need arises.
 - On Sundays, the Main Ontario St. door and the doors nearest the church office will be the only doors unlocked for entry.
 - We are thankful the rate of infection in Bonner County continues to drop and everyone over 16 in our congregation can be vaccinated. We also recognize, gathering inside still poses a risk of transmission, so we will record each worship and post for those who worship God with us from home. Yes, the Holy Spirit connects us all together wherever we are, with the saints today, and all those who have gone before us in the faith.

Vaccinations: Lutheran Christians, along with several other denominations, have understood Jesus' equipping of the apostles to offer healing, as including science and medicine. Many of the hospitals, mental health care, colleges, and Assisted Living for elders were started and continue to be guided by the Lutheran Church around the world. We believe loving one's neighbor includes using this gift of reason for the good of the whole community. This means seeking the Spirit's guidance and through discussions as the larger church, constantly reevaluating what is faithful and ethically right for us to support. While the church will not tell you what to do medically, it does believe the vaccinations for Covid-19 is one part of helping our neighbors resume a whole life in work, play, and worship of God and supported biblically. If you would like to discuss this more, please talk to Pastor Lori.

Gathering Survey: The Council's goal has been to follow the guidelines of the CDC and the Panhandle Health department's recommendations for people gathering in groups. We are in a transition time where those who are vaccinated can begin resuming many of their prior activities and interactions with people (who are also vaccinated).

Help us make an informed decision about updating our procedures by filling out and returning this in the offering plate for everyone in your household **if you did not do so May 9**. We received 45 responses last week. Thank you!

1. Number of people vaccinated in your household _____. How many of your household are actively participating in any ministry of FLC? _____ (worship in person, online, Confirmation, Bible Studies, Quilting, etc.)

2. If anyone of your household is not vaccinated, do they plan to? _____

3. Which of the following are needed for you to feel safe gathering for worship (at this phase of the pandemic)? (If more than one person is in your family unit, write the number of people who feel this way in each blank. Mark all that apply)?

- _____ All wearing masks
- _____ Spaced 6' from another family unit or friend bubble
- _____ Ushers helping with 6' spacing and finding open pews
- _____ Staggering people as we leave the church
- _____ Use of hand sanitizer as people enter
- _____ Signage informing the church's expectations while in the building
- _____ Conversations held outside (not in the sanctuary or narthex)
- _____ No singing inside
- _____ Humming of songs while all wearing masks
- _____ Holy Communion served outside by Pastors masked and wearing gloves
- _____ Holy Communion served inside at one station where people come forward to receive the elements. Those who serve are masked and gloved. Participants masked until they reach the station.
- _____ Have 80% of the community vaccinated
- _____ Have your family unit or friend bubble vaccinated.
- _____ Will not attend until there are no restrictions.
- _____ Other.

Name of Household (optional) _____. We are trusting you to turn in only one survey.