



Come to Believe † Come to Belong
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 7, 2024

PRELUDE

Rob Aaron

“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”

P) Alleluia! Christ is risen! C) **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for self-reflection)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Blessed Assurance"



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

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.

KYRIE (Lord, Have Mercy)

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together: **Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving 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 were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 133

¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

² **It is like the precious oil on the head,**
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
**For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.**

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me

And nothing will I fear as long as you are near, please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

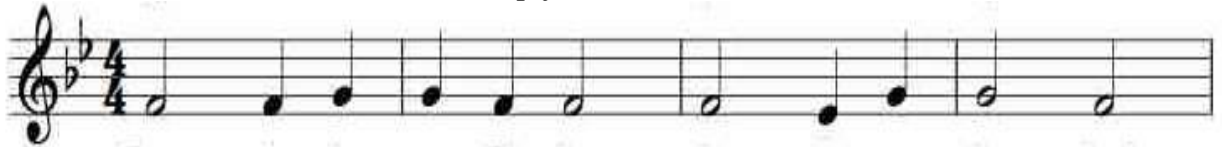
Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley

HYMN OF THE DAY

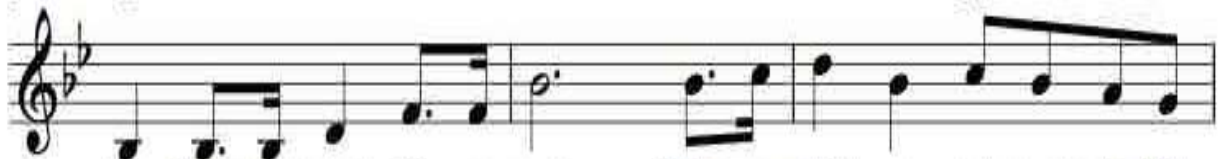
“Up from the Grave”



Low in the grave He lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior!
 Vain - ly they watch His bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior!
 Death can - not keep his prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior!



Wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord!
 Vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord!
 He tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord!



Up from the grave He a - rose, With a might - y tri - umph o'er His



foes; He a - rose a Vic - tor from the dark do - main, And He



lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign, He a - rose! He a -



rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

P) Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, thank you for being patient with us. Thank you for breathing your Spirit and peace upon us. Thank you for giving us your own work of forgiving the sins of all who seek forgiveness and grace. Give us the faith, hope, and charity to believe, worship, and obey you always.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Breathe your gracious Spirit upon this congregation. Make us hunger for your Word and thirst for your goodness. Help us to love you by serving others in your name.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Breathe your Spirit upon doubters, and all whose confidence in your grace has been shaken by tragedy. Use us to lead them into your house. Lift them with your wounded hands. Transform their unbelief into unshakeable faith in you, their Lord and God.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Give to the leaders of the nations, and to all people, that peace which the world cannot give. Let righteousness and mercy bless those who are troubled by the powers of sin, evil and death.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

The other disciples sought out Thomas when he was doubting and sorrowful. Teach us to seek out and walk with others when they despair of your love. Give us grace to be gentle, patient, yet persistent as we invite them to taste and see your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Bring the peace of your forgiveness, the healing of your dear touch, and the joy of your salvation to all those who suffer in body or spirit, especially those we name out loud or silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent or spoken prayers*). Cheer their hearts, renew their faith, and restore them to fellowship with all who love them.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus, you have been raised from death. You promise your resurrection life to all whom you have redeemed. We entrust into your care our beloved dead. Wipe away the tears of all who grieve. Turn our doubt into confidence. Grant that all whom you have redeemed may see you face to face, and cry out in adoration and joy, "My Lord and my God!"

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead, and you dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*

*Our Father, which 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.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All are welcome at the Lord's Table (*the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice*).



"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

"One Bread, One Body"

Refrain

One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all;
one cup of bless - ing which we bless, and
we, though man - y through-out the earth,
we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

"Seek Ye First"

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



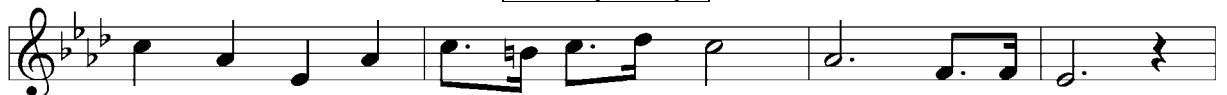
- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear . . Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom . . shore, to thy shore.

"I'll Fly Away"



- 1 Some glad morn - ing when this life is o'er,
- 2 When the shad - ows of this life have grown, I'll fly a - way;
- 3 Just a few more wea - ry days and then,



to a home on God's ce - les - tial shore,
like a bird from pris - on bars has flown, I'll fly a - way.
to a land where joys shall nev - er end,

Refrain



I'll fly a - way, oh glo - ry, I'll fly a - way;



when I die, hal - le - lu - jah by and by, I'll fly a - way.

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (2 times)

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your
prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth
to show the way, from the earth to the cross,
my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray together...**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing”



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
5 Christ is a - live! As - cend - ed Lord— he rules the



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
world his Fa - ther made, till, in the end, his

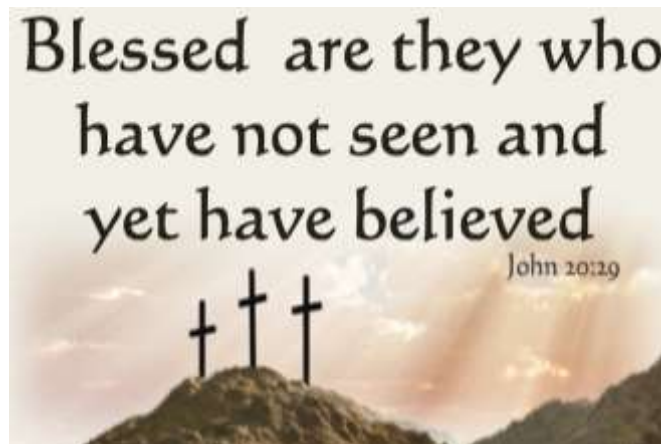


prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
here and now and con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
midst of life, our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
love a - dored shall be to all on earth dis - played.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!



Rob Aaron – piano ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Jay Wittreich & Janet Wright **Ushers:** Jim & Arlene Burton
Reader: Janet Wright **Barista:** Barb Evans
Sacristans: Diane Heltsley & Char Pedersen
Communion Assistants: Dixie Carver & Joleen Wheaton
Altar Flowers: Phyllis Merhaut **Close Up:** Patty Rogers

Last Week's Attendance: 141 **Last Week's Offering:** \$10,428.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to North Bay Lutheran Community Church! We hope you are blessed today as we worship the Lord together. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for fellowship following our service. We are glad that you're here!

Fellowship Time. Today: *April Birthday Celebrations* (cake provided by NBLCC). **April 14th:** *Appetizer Sunday* (Bring a favorite appetizer to share)

Neighborhood Bible Study will meet on **Tuesday, April 9th** at 12:45pm. For more information, please contact Sue Nichols at 360-277-3414.

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, April 10th** at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact Patty at 360-271-0055 (C) or 360-275-3939 (H), or email at palmcanal@hotmail.com.

Lap Quilts – All of you who may be interested in making lap quilts to distribute to people in hospitals and/or nursing homes please join us on **Thursday, April 11th** at 10:00 am. You don't need to know how to sew or quilt; we need folks to cut fabric, arrange squares, or sew. This is a time of fellowship, and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Dixie Carver at (360) 801-6202 or Rosemary Wheaton at (360) 204-3501.

NO Men's Bible Study. We will be taking a break for two weeks. We will meet again on **Saturday, April 27th** at 8:00 am as we continue our study of the Gospel of Luke.

