



## EARTH DAY VIGIL

Monday, April 22, 2024

Holy Communion  
7:00 p.m.

**United Lutheran Church**  
**Oak Park, Illinois**

---

*Welcome to United Lutheran Church! We're delighted you've joined us for Easter Sunday worship. If you're new to worship, **parts for everyone to say or sing are bolded**, and parts that the worship leaders will say are unbolded.*

### INVOCATION PRAYER (*standing*)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +  
God, the most high Creator,  
Christ, our crucified and risen Savior,  
Holy Spirit, whose breath renews the face of the earth. **Amen.**

Let us pray,  
Holy God, in you we live and move and have our being. You give us this earth we call home. When and where we falter and fail in our care, when and where we let destruction consume this home, save us, keep us, and tend us in *your* care, that renewed in Christ's own body we may perceive your true presence in every earthly thing.  
**Amen.**

### WELCOME AND GREETING (*sitting*)

**FIRST READING:** **Job 38-40 (selected)**  
*This reading prepares us for our confession of sin and absolution.*

A reading from Job.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup>“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup>Gird up your loins like a human,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

<sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

<sup>25</sup>“Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain,  
and a way for the thunderbolt,

<sup>26</sup>to bring rain on a land where no one lives,

on the desert, which is empty of human life,

<sup>27</sup>to satisfy the waste and desolate land,

and to make the ground put forth grass?

<sup>39</sup>“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,  
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

<sup>40</sup>when they crouch in their dens,

or lie in wait in their covert?

<sup>41</sup>Who provides for the raven its prey,

when its young ones cry to God,

and wander about for lack of food?

<sup>39:1</sup>“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?  
Do you observe the calving of the deer?

<sup>2</sup>Can you number the months that they fulfill,

and do you know the time when they give birth,

<sup>3</sup>when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,

and are delivered of their young?

<sup>4</sup>Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;

they go forth, and do not return to them.

<sup>26</sup>“Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars,  
and spreads its wings toward the south?

<sup>27</sup>Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up

and makes its nest on high?

<sup>28</sup>It lives on the rock and makes its home  
in the fastness of the rocky crag.  
<sup>29</sup>From there it spies the prey;  
its eyes see it from far away.  
<sup>30</sup>Its young ones suck up blood;  
and where the slain are, there it is.”

<sup>40:1</sup>And the LORD said to Job:

<sup>2</sup>“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?  
Anyone who argues with God must respond.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Job answered the LORD:

<sup>4</sup>“See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?  
I lay my hand on my mouth.  
<sup>5</sup>I have spoken once, and I will not answer;  
twice, but will proceed no further.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.  
O God, you know us through and through,

**You see and know everything we throw away, discard, and consume,  
The plastics and the styrofoam, the chemicals and the glass,  
The bottles and the wrappers, the fumes of burned gas.**

O God, you know us through and through,

**You see and know the things we do not wish to see, the dead zones  
expanding in the ocean, the ashes of burned-out forests, the bleached  
coral reefs, the mountains of trash dumped in countries far away.  
You see the people, many poorer than us, who lose their safety while  
these things are still far away from us here.**

O God, you know us through and through,

**You see and know the comforts and convenience, the ease and peace we choose, the way we have gotten accustomed to having earthly things at our control and command.**

O God, you know us through and through,

**We confess that although we know our small individual choices alone won't make a difference, and although feelings of guilt and sorrow on their own aren't helpful for bringing about change, that still our own hearts hurt with the destruction of the planet and our part in it.**

**We confess to you the missed opportunities we have had in our lives to join with others in faithful ways of respecting the planet, its inhabitants, and you, our Creator.**

**We bring all this in a spirit of openness before you and humbly ask for your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ our savior.**

*Silence for meditation. After the sound of the singing bowl, the second reading prepares us to hear the words of absolution.*

**SECOND READING**

Romans 8:19-26

A reading from Romans.

<sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in<sup>a</sup> hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes<sup>b</sup> for what is seen? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes<sup>c</sup> with sighs too deep for words.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## INVITATION TO DISCONNECT FROM ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Our phones, screens, and devices connect us with limitless information and knowledge. They can also themselves be part of the problem.

The endless artificial light, artificially always “turned on,” takes us out from the natural cycles of the earth, of rest, and the knowledge that we are limited creatures.

At this time I invite you to turn off any phones or devices that you have with you, and if you so desire, you may place them at the foot of the processional cross.

*The words of this worship are a prayer for the interceding power of the Spirit, which in our reading from Romans, intercedes for us, in us, for the whole of creation.*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Lights in the sanctuary are turned off.*

## GOSPEL (Standing)

John 20:11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said

to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

#### FORGIVENESS OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION.

*In place of the sermon, we hear the proclamation of God's forgiveness and the power of the gospel.*

Almighty God, who is powerful in mercy, saw and loved us even we were dead in our sin, and raises us to life with Christ. By God's infinite grace, the stone of the tomb is rolled away, the spirit of death is cast away, and you set free. In the name of Jesus Christ, + your sins are forgiven.

May God strengthen you with power through the Creator Spirit,  
fill you with life-breathing peace,  
that Christ may live and grow in and through you and all the creation,  
our garden, wilderness, and home. May the intentions and thoughts of all  
our hearts be turned through the word of Christ in us to new ways of living  
and caring.

**Amen.**

#### PROCESSION INTO NATURAL LIGHT

*We follow the processional cross out the Ridgeland doors to the south lawn.*

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*standing*)

*Following each petition:*

Lord, we adore thee. **Lord, we adore thee.**

***The prayers conclude:*** Thank you for all of your creation, Lord, and help us to care for and preserve it.

## PEACE

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

You may exchange a sign of peace with one another saying

**“Peace be with you,”**  
and replying,  
**“and with the earth.”**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING (*standing*)

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 our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

As the shadows lengthen,  
we bless you, sheltering God.  
We glorify you for the sunset, for the endless, starlit sky,  
For the mystery of your creative labor.  
At day's end  
you rained down manna in the wilderness.  
At sundown  
your Son brought healing to people in need.  
In the midday night  
when Jesus died on the cross,  
life came forth for all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ by your words of promise you are truly present in the bread and wine  
of this meal,  
Christ by your ascension you are physically present  
everywhere, ubiquitous, in this ground,  
these plants and trees, these insects,  
in every earthly thing.

Held in a mystery we cannot fully grasp,  
We wait for you to come with power  
To deliver all earthly things from death and decay  
Into your ever-present fullness of life.  
Come Lord Jesus.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy Spirit, Make us here the body of Christ:  
in the breaking of the bread,



in peace and justice for our broken world,  
in fervent love for your creation.  
Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

To you, O God, be all glory, all honor, all praise  
this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

#### **INVITATION**

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

#### **COMMUNION SONG**

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the  
 flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to  
 you, deep peace of the qui - et earth.

Text: Celtic traditional; adapt. Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
 Music: DEEP PEACE, Ray Makeever  
 Text and music © 2009 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*led by assisting minister*)

Let us pray.

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word, to care for the garden of this earth our home. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

God has done marvelous things.  
 I too sing praises with a new song!

### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
 The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
 and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you and keep you now and always.  
**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, rooted in Christ's care.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003740. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printing of hymns and songs is with permission of ONE LICENSE #A-724675. All rights reserved. Live-streaming of music during this service is with permission of ONE LICENSE #A-724675. All rights reserved.

#### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

*Presiding Minister:* Ole Schenk; *Director of Music:* Cacie Miller; *reader:* Cyd Kuck;  
*Assisting Minister:* Sharon Stadtwald;

**Welcome to all** worshipping with us this morning. We invite everyone to commune with us. Join us for a time of fellowship after worship in the fellowship hall on the main level of the building.

**Please record your name** and address on a white communication card, check off additional items as appropriate, and place the card in an offering plate as you leave.

**Interested in membership** at United Lutheran Church or would you like more information on participating in an activity or event? Please call or email the church office (contact information below).

**Midweek Moments** is a weekly email newsletter containing announcements from United Lutheran Church and you can subscribe to it on the *news page* of our website. Printed copies of the latest edition of Midweek Moments are also available on the tables with the worship bulletins at either entrance.

Find us on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/unitedlutheranoakpark/>

**Call** the church office: 708-386-1576.

**Email** the church office: [office@unitedlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@unitedlutheranchurch.org).

**Mailing address:** 409 Greenfield Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60302-1143.

**Website:** [www.unitedlutheranchurch.org](http://www.unitedlutheranchurch.org)

**Contact Pastor Ole Schenk (he/him):** [pastor@unitedlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@unitedlutheranchurch.org), or 312-863-9747 (cell)



**United Lutheran Church**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.