

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,
Easter now continues for 50 days — for seven more Sundays. Still, we mostly remain at home. But Christ is risen! And, by the Spirit, Christ holds us together as one and turns us toward our neighbors. If you are able, join other members of the congregation in reading the scripture, praying, listening to our pastor, and singing with Barbara **at 10am on Sunday**. Make your gift to the church by US Mail or by the link on the website home page. And look for yet other ways that you can help in this painful time, if only by the depth of your prayer. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020**

Our Common Prayer at Home



Dear RELC Family,

In the recent weeks following the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the social distancing practices that are currently affecting our ability to gather together in person, the church office has been very fortunate to have the resources and ability to mail out weekly bulletins. While this is a service that RELC takes pride in, it has come at a very high weekly expense. Due to our unexpected increase in the expenditure of USPS postage, the Easter 2 bulletin will be the last set of worship materials to be routinely mailed out. Should you desire to continue receiving the weekly worship materials by mail, please call the church office at 703-532-5991 or 703-213-9000 to make this special request. The church office will be very happy to continue to provide you with this spiritual resource, if you are in need of this service.

With care and support,

Office Administration

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],
²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16 (in response to the First Reading)

Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>

- ¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”
- ²All my delight is in the Godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.
- ³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who hold my lot.
- ⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.
- ⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
- ⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.
- ¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

It is a week later and we are still mostly behind locked doors. We do not see and, at least sometimes, we certainly doubt. But these texts are full of blessing on those who do not see. The Gospel according to John is written so that, though we do not see him, we may believe in the risen Christ. The Second Reading says rightly that though we do not see him, we love him. And today, this very Sunday, Christ comes to us, wherever we are sheltering, bringing peace, forgiveness, and the Spirit of life and hope. While we cannot reach out together to touch his body in the holy communion, with our ears and eyes we touch Christ's wounds in the scripture itself. We are once again made witnesses to the resurrection for the sake of all our neighbors.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Easter 2 sermon. It may be found on Constant Contact, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>

Now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at:

<https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>

HYMN OF THE DAY #386 “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

Sing the Alleluia, then stanzas 1-4 and 9, then the Alleluia again

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing



- 1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing
 - 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 - 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
 - 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
- Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.*
- 9 On this most ho - ly day of days,



with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:
the faith - ful wom - en went their way
who sits and speaks un - to the three,
a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,
be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:



to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
“Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee.” Al - le - lu - ia!
and said, “My peace be with you here.” Al - le - lu - ia!
to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
that they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!
- 6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless, but believing be.”
Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.
Alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

Then pray together these prayers for our church and world:

Praying in our residences while gathered together in the Spirit of Christ, we ask God to bestow peace upon a needy world, using words from today's psalm: Protect us, O God, for we take refuge in you.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, we pray for the church around the world. Enter into our countless separate houses with your gift of peace. Guard the health of Bishop Ortiz, Pastor Linman, and our musician Barbara. As Christians around the globe are united in their suffering through the coronavirus, so unite us also in the hope of life in the Risen Christ.

A brief silence.

Protect the church, O God, **for we take refuge in you.**

Creating God, we pray for the earth that you have given into our care. As human society is quieted by sickness, give your plants and animals, lands and seas, a time to renew and replenish themselves. Nurture the fields that will supply our food.

A brief silence.

Protect the earth, O God, **for we take refuge in you.**

Righteous God, we pray for the nations. Give peace to our troubled world. Bless the efforts of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Strengthen democracies. Bring an end to violence between nations, across borders, within countries, between gangs, and inside homes. Uphold the governors of our land. Bless our country with integrity in government, attention to the needy, persistence in facing the pandemic, and wisdom in proceeding into an unknown future.

A brief silence.

Protect the nations, O God, **for we take refuge in you.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in any need. Comfort the bereaved. Accompany the sick, especially Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Nathan Linman, Jack Mulloy, the multitude who have contracted the coronavirus, and those we remember in our hearts. . . . Visit the homes of all who are sequestered, and hold the lonely and fearful in your arms. Grant your peace to the millions of unemployed; give them food for today and hope for tomorrow. Help us find a home for refugees. Support medical care workers in their endless and sometimes fruitless tasks of attending to the pandemic patients. Provide needed medical supplies for hospitals.

A brief silence.

Protect the needy, O God, **for we take refuge in you.**

Gracious God, we pray for children and youth. Shelter them from all sickness. Keep homebound children safe from hunger and abuse. Nurture teenagers with a vision of life beyond this pandemic, and show them how to occupy their time in useful ways. Give to all children and youth forbearance beyond their years.

A brief silence.

Protect children and youth, O God, **for we take refuge in you.**

Loving God, we pray for ourselves. Renew our spirits with the living hope of Christ's resurrection, and hear also the private petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Protect us, O God, **for we take refuge in you.**

Eternal God, we praise you for the lives of all who have died in the faith, especially today the Petri brothers of Sweden and our sister Jeanne Lowe, along with all those we name here before you. . . .Sustained by the promise of healing and resurrection, free us from the fear of death, and bring us at our end with all the saints into the joy of your presence.

A brief silence.

Protect your people, Of God, **for we take refuge in you.**

With bold confidence in your peace which passes human understanding, we offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at
<https://www.relcarlinton.org/youtube>

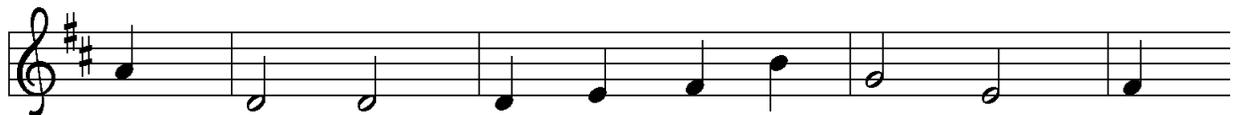
HYMN #390

“The Risen Christ”

The Risen Christ



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949
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Then conclude with these Prayers:

LET US PRAY,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, morning, noon or night, to celebrate that presence:

**Come Lord Jesus, be our guest,
And let these gifts to us be blest.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread;
May all the world be clothed and fed.**

And here is another:

**For health and strength and daily food,
We praise you name, O Lord.
For health and food for all the world
We ask your help, O Lord.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 114. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109) 1 Corinthians 15:19-28. **Wednesday** Matthew 12:38-42. **Thursday** (commemoration of Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960) Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19. **Friday** Isaiah 26:1-4. **Saturday** (Mark, Evangelist) Mark 1:1-15. **Third Sunday of Easter** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.