

Glynde Lutheran Church

a multi-cultural community of faith



Church@Home
Sunday 16th April 2023
Easter 2, Year A
9am Traditional worship

HYMN: LH 95 HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN

<https://youtu.be/SZ5ze13sM4I>

**He is risen, He is risen!
Tell it with a joyful voice;
He has burst His three days' prison,
Let the whole wide world rejoice.
Death is conquered, man is free,
Christ has won the victory.**

**Come with high and holy gladness,
Chant our Lord's triumphant lay;
Not one touch of twilight sadness
Dims His resurrection day;
Brightly dawns the radiant east,
Brighter far our Easter feast.**

**He is risen, He is risen!
He has opened heaven's gate;
We are free from sin's dark prison,
Risen to a holier state;
Soon a brighter Easter beam
On our longing eyes shall stream.**

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895)
Music: J Neander 1650-1680*

WELCOME & WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

IN THE NAME

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ:

Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.
Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a poor helpless sinner,
confess to you all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done.
I have deeply displeased you
and deserve your punishment
in time and in eternity.
But I am sorry for my sins,
and I ask you,
for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart:
Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?
I do.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and
do you desire forgiveness in his name?
I do.

Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence,
and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?
I do.

Christ gave to his church the authority to forgive the sins of those who
repent and believe. Therefore, upon your confession, I, as a called and
ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and
on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of
the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you.

Amen.

GLORY TO THE FATHER

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forevermore. Amen

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, among those with whom he is pleased.

We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you for your great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly king,
God, the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of God the Father;
have mercy on us.
For you alone are holy,
you alone are Lord,
you alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (all)

(Let us pray for faith in our risen Lord. *[silence]*)

Merciful God,
your Son Jesus Christ
is the resurrection and the life,
who gives hope and joy
to those who doubt.
Give to us who do not see you
faith and life and blessing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: John 20:21
Jesus: 'As the Father sent me, so I send you.'

BIBLE READINGS

FIRST READING

[Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#)

SECOND READING

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

After the reading

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel is written in [John 20:19-31](#)

(after the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us* and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic† and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN: AT 364 IN YOU IS GLADNESS

https://youtu.be/EIPblWY_XJU

**In you is gladness, in all our sadness,
Jesus, joy of every heart;
by you are given blessings from heaven,
true Redeemer, our delight.
Our sins you've taken, our bonds you've broken;
trusting you surely, we build securely,
we stand forever. Hallelujah!
Our hearts are turning to you with yearning,
on you relying, living or dying,
we're yours forever. Hallelujah!**

**In you is calmness; nothing can harm us:
world, or death, or Satan's plans.
In our distresses you see and bless us;
you have all things in your hands.
Our heart rejoices, we lift our voices,
singing your glory, telling your story
now and forever. Hallelujah!
with adoration, in celebration,
we love and praise you, eagerly raise you
glad hymns forever. Hallelujah.**

*Words: Trans from German (Johann Lindemann 1549-1631) by H Proeve & D Schubert
Music: G Gastoldi (1591)*

MESSAGE

John 20:21

Jesus: 'As the Father sent me, so I send you.'

As you heard the reading from John this morning I hope you heard it as if Jesus was speaking directly to you; as if you were in the room that day. As I listen to Jesus speaking he blows me away.

First, he greets me with; 'Peace be with you'. Fullness of life in God be with you. Isn't that great.

Jesus could have begun by asking; 'Where were you when I needed you?' 'Why did you run away?' 'Why did you deny me?' 'I'm very, very disappointed and let down by you'. Jesus could easily come to me and say; 'Tim, I thought you'd know better.' 'Tim, I have given you so much, and you've simply gone with the flow and let me down.'

In short Jesus could easily condemn, point out my short comings, leaving me in a state of guilt and regret. But he doesn't; thank God!

Jesus greets us this morning with; 'Peace be with you', 'Fullness of life in Father's love and affection be with you.' Jesus gives me what I need, not what I deserve. Jesus comes and gives me life; he gives me hope, love, a wonderful relationship to share with him, as together we live life in Father's love and affection.

I'm very, very, glad that Jesus didn't come breathing fire and brimstone, to scare me, to condemn me. Jesus comes to save. Jesus comes to lift us up that we might join him, living life as Father's precious children. Jesus comes loving us to life; so that we change, grow, mature as a result of his presence in our lives. Here we find the security to change, to face our mistakes and admit them, so we can live free of their hold on us.

'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.'

Jesus didn't come into the world terrified of his Father. Jesus didn't come trying to get his dad to like him, to appease an angry, vengeful God. That's not how the Father sent Jesus; is it!

Jesus is sent fully aware of his identity in the Father. Jesus isn't shaped by the world, by popular opinion, by a need to be accepted. Nothing like that shapes Jesus identity; Jesus' identity is shaped by his Father, and that shapes his actions.

Jesus is the freest man I know, simply because he is able to live true to his identity; he knows who he is in the Father. So, Jesus isn't shaped by the events of life, he shapes the events of life.

The cross is a great example of this. The cross before Jesus was a symbol of horror. The people of Jesus day believed that if you were crucified it meant that God had abandoned you, rejected you, that you were deserving of such a death because you were such an evil person.

Imagine if Jesus had believed all that; what sort of person would that have created?

Instead Jesus lives finding his identity in his Father, and he changes the cross to now be a symbol of hope, of forgiveness, of Father's love for us. Jesus lived true to who he is in the Father and changed the cross, the cross didn't change Jesus.

So we are sent by the Father as Jesus was. We are sent to live free, not trying to find or create our own identity but living true to who we are in Father, no matter the situation we find ourselves in.

Situation don't define us; our loving heavenly Father does. So now, like Jesus, as we live true to who we are in the Father, we change the situation. Do you believe that? It's true!

You are sent like Jesus; a living breathing child of the heavenly Father; precious in his sight, able to live like Jesus; doing what you see Father doing, saying what you hear your Father say – for in Jesus our heavenly Father reveals his heart and soul to us.

Do you notice that Jesus now gives you a new position in life? He shapes your identity and puts you in a new position; you're not a slave. Fear is not your master. In Jesus you're not left in the dark; you know the truth for you know Jesus, and he is the truth.

You're part of the royal family; Jesus is your brother, literally, and he's the king. Is that how you view yourself; someone of importance, someone of influence, someone who does have the power to make a difference.

Outside of Jesus such thoughts would simply give me a swollen head and I'd probably expect people to serve me. But no; in Jesus, we have the wonderful privilege of joining Jesus in serving, in lifting people up, of using our position to bless the people in our lives, to enrich the lives of those our Father brings across our paths. And this is all possible because of the new position Jesus has given us through his crucifixion and resurrection.

That begins to change my perspective on life. I'm sent as Jesus was; not to be selfish, but to freely give myself that other's might live. My identity isn't defined by how much money I have, but by my relationship with the heavenly Father, who now gives me a new position of security to work from so that I might use the money he gifts me with to serve others, not to simply allay my fears, or to think that my security is found in my bank balance.

My security, my identity, my purpose for living is found in Jesus, and through him in my relationship of love and affection that I share with the heavenly Father.

'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.' Then he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'.

Jesus wasn't sent to simply to the best he could; and we're not sent to simply do the best we know how. I'm not sent out to do what is impossible for me; and I've noticed that left to myself it is impossible to live true to who I am. I need help. I need mates. I need to walk with others; and who better to walk with than God, in the person of the Holy Spirit. Who has the wonderful habit of gathering other mates so we can walk together with him in community.

And because I, we, walk together with the Holy Spirit, we're not impotent.

Have you noticed that having the best of intentions without what is needed to achieve those intentions doesn't result in much? Actually I've noticed it does result in feelings of failure, regret, disappointment, a resolve to never do that again. Having the best of intentions without the power to do it can have devastating consequences.

But you are sent like Jesus; you are empowered with the Spirit's presence. You are not impotent; for God isn't impotent – the cross tried to defeat Jesus, but it only gave him a platform to triumph. The Father was with Jesus on the cross giving him the resolve, the love, to hang in there, that we might be saved. Saved for life lived in and thought God's power; not our own.

So, we have the power to forgive sins; the power to liberate the slave and lead them into a life of freedom.

I think we have far too narrow a view of sin, if we just think of sin as being the bad things we do. When I think about it, quite often the so called

'good things' I do are a greater sin, because they become what I depend on, they become the things I point to, to prove who I am. I point and say; 'Look at what a good boy I am, see all the good things I've done'.

Do you notice how quickly God gets the boot; it's all the good things I've done. I can find myself pointing to what a sincere confession I've made; so God must like me, be impressed by me.

Sin is finding your identity in anything other than what your heavenly Father says; and his definitive word is Jesus. Jesus defines my identity, out of which my actions can flow to my heavenly Father's glory, praise and honour.

Sin is finding your position being defined by what you've achieved, the praise of others, and what trinkets I've accumulated. I own a big house, an expensive car, and am popular – I must be important.

No, Jesus defines my position, in him I'm one of Father's loved children, a member of the royal family, empowered to save, to serve, to liberate the slave that they might live free in Father's love and affection.

What a wonderful new perspective on me and my life's purpose Jesus blesses me with. I get to live out Father's love and affection, so that people might come to life; life lived truly free, knowing who they are – not a slave to circumstance, but world changers as they live out their God given, Jesus paid for, identity.

I pray that this week the Spirit speaks powerfully and clearly to your heart that you go and live in all you say and do; as the Father sent Jesus, for that's how Jesus is sending you.

Go and live free; free to be all that Jesus has given his life for, that like him in your life you bring the Father's love and affection, living true to who you are in him; and in doing so you change people's lives; from slave to free, from sinner to forgiven, from unwanted to loved of the Father, from impotent to living in the power of the Spirit to Father's glory, honour and praise.

Pastor Tim Koch

HYMN: LH 113 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

https://youtu.be/s7OCs0d_4vM

**Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Son of God
Before the worlds began;
And ye, who tread where He hath trod,
Crown Him the Son of man,
Who every grief hath known
That wrings the human breast,
And takes and bears them for His own,
That all in Him may rest.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Those wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save:
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heaven,
Enthroned in worlds above;
Crown Him the king to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love;
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.**

*Words: sts 1,3 Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)
Sts 2,4,5 Godfrey Thring ((1823-1903)
Music: G J Elvey 1816- 1893 (1868)*

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to prayer

Blessed 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. Therefore, let us come to him in the name of Jesus, to pray for all we need.

The regular response, OR:

God and Lord,
fill us with your Spirit of life.

Suggested intercessions

- * that Christ may always be present among his people
- * for all pastors, that they may exercise the ministry of forgiveness with compassion
- * for those in mental anguish and racked by doubt in themselves or in God
- * for all Christians, who must give account of their faith
- * for those who find no purpose in life
- * for those are wounded in body or soul
- * for those newly baptised or confirmed at Easter

Concluding prayer

God of life, show us the risen Lord through your life-giving Spirit, so that we may be filled with faith to do the work you have given us to do. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER.

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour,† and give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN: TIS 210 O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

https://youtu.be/CFJvBwgmK_c

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of our God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
Such music in the sinner's ears
Is life, and health, and peace.**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
You blind, behold your Saviour come;
And leap, you lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of your name.**

*Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88
Music: Thomas Jarman 1776-1861*