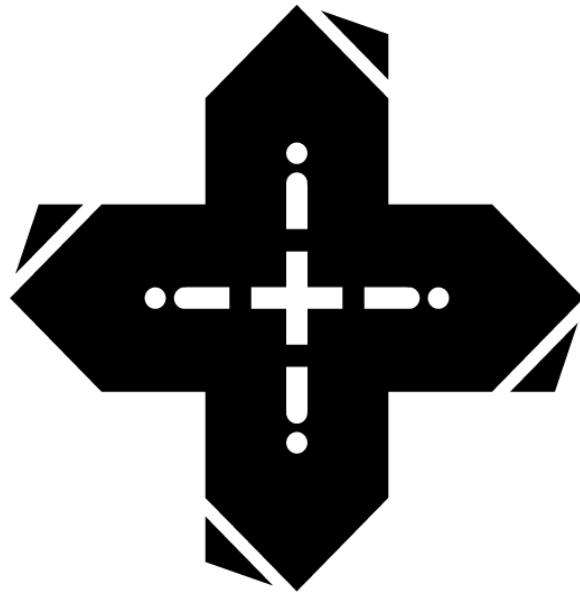


Connecting Christ. Creating Community.



HUNTERSVILLE
Lutheran Church

SUNDAYS OF EASTER
05.02.21



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Seven Oaks 19725 Oak St. Cornelius, NC

Worship @ 9:30am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the hallway at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

Service Participants

Rev Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

Service Notes

~Sundays of Easter~

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the beating heart of the gospel and the linchpin of your faith. The Apostle Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20-22). Jesus' resurrection is what gives your faith meaning, what brings comfort amid sorrows, and what offers you hope for the life to come.

Easter is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious savior. For the early Christians, and for us, Easter is not merely one day. It is a whole season that also includes the celebration of Jesus' ascension. As one author put it, "Easter is not only the focal point of our faith (the intellectual side), but this is really when the church parties (the emotional side)." The season of Easter, known as "The Great Fifty Days," was the first liturgical season of the church year to be celebrated in the first three centuries of the early church. For fifty days, the church rightfully continues the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and what it means.

Throughout the Season of Easter, each Sunday has a special emphasis. Several Sundays recount Jesus' miraculous and mysterious post-Easter appearances. In ancient times, the Second Sunday of Easter was known as White Sunday. The men, women, and children who were baptized at the Easter Vigil wore white robes as a sign of their baptismal renewal. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, recalls the manifold references in John's Gospel to Jesus being our Good Shepherd. The final Sunday in the Season of Easter is reserved for the celebration of the Ascension and also sets the scene for the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

As we journey together through The Great Fifty Days, God grant us hearts of joy as we continue to celebrate the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Amen!

About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is a church that is waiting for you. We are supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission is to show you to the authentic Jesus, build you up in his Word, and connect you to your community and neighbors in ways you have never been able to before. For more information, check out www.huntersvillelc.com.



ORDER OF SERVICE

From beginning to end, the Gospel—the good news of what Jesus did for sinners—is the central focus in our worship. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. This is because the Gospel is the very thing that God uses to transform hearts and eternities, creating saving faith in the heart of the believer. God bless our worship this morning.

Opening Hymn | *This Is My Will* |



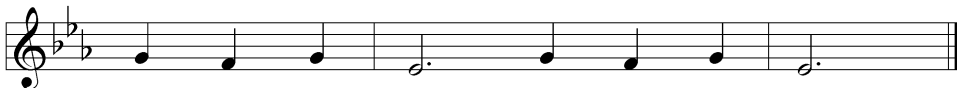
1 "This is my will, my one com - mand,
2 "No great - er love can an - y have
3 "I call you now no long - er slaves;
4 "You chose not me, but I chose you,
5 "All that you ask my Fa - ther dear



That love should dwell a - mong you all.
Than that one die to save his friends.
No slave knows all the mas - ter does.
That you should go and bear much fruit.
For my name's sake you shall re - ceive.



This is my will, that you should love
You are my friends if you o - bey
I call you friends, for all I hear
I chose you out, that you in me
This is my will, my one com - mand,



As I have shown that I love you.
What I com - mand that you should do.
My Fa - ther say, you hear from me.
Should bear much fruit that will a - bide.
That love should dwell in each, in all."

Invocation

L In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.¹

C Amen.

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed.

Confession of Sins

L Brothers and sisters, if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

L Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

C **Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his holy life and innocent death.
Trusting in him, I pray:
God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

L Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says to you:

Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

¹ The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

L In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise | *Father, We Praise You* |



1 Fa - ther, we praise you, now the night is o - ver.
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions;
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it,



Ac - tive and watch - ful, stand - ing now be -
Ban - ish our weak - ness, health and whole - ness
Trin - i - ty bless - ed, send us your sal -



fore you, Sing - ing, we of - fer prayer and
send - ing. Bring us to heav - en, where your
va - tion; Yours is the glo - ry, gleam - ing



med - i - ta - tion; Thus we a - dore you.
saints u - nit - ed Joy with - out end - ing.
and re - sound - ing Through all cre - a - tion.

Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray:

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen



THE WORD

During the Sundays of Easter, the first reading is going to look a little different. Instead of being a selection from the Old Testament, the first reading is a selection from the book of Acts. This is to show how the Resurrection ultimately gave birth to the Christian Church and how God used the apostles to spread the message of the empty tomb.

Children's Message

First Reading | 4:32-37 |

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63

The cantor will introduce the refrain and sing the verses. The congregation is invited to join in the refrain as indicated below.

Refrain:



In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

L Refrain.

C Refrain.

L O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

C Refrain.

L For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

C Refrain.

L On my bed, I remember you. On you I muse through the night,
For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

C Refrain.

Second Reading | *1 John 3:18-24* |

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

L The Gospel according to John, chapter fifteen.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day | *My Heart is Filled With Thankfulness* |

- 1. My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart.**

- 2. My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose ev'ry promise is enough
For ev'ry step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.**

- 3. My heart is filled with thankfulness
To him who reigns above,
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth
Is given by the King;
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow him.**

Sermon | *Relying on Jesus* |

John 15:1-8

Personal Sermon Notes



Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed* |

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

THANKSGIVING

Offering | The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

Take Action Cards | In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

Prayer of the Church

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.

The Lord's Blessing

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24

☑ Amen.

Song of Departure | *When Peace Like A River* |

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, though has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

2. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious though—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain.

3. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul.

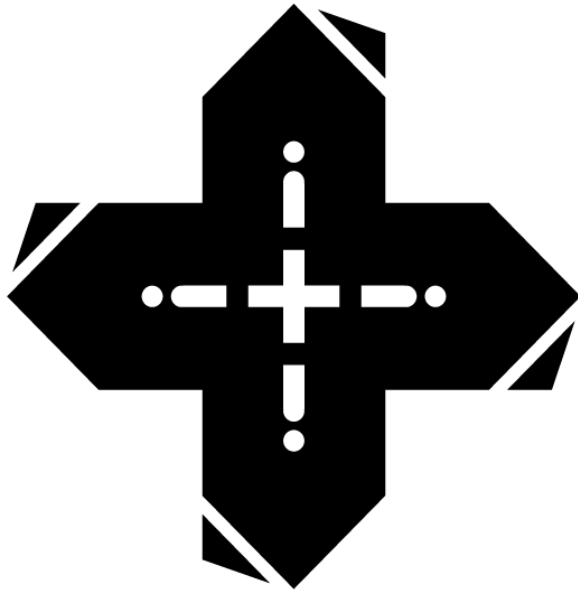
Refrain.

Announcements

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning, we pray your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

Want to Learn More? | Aside from worship, one of the best way to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor (pastor@huntersvillelc.com).

Congregational Update Meeting | Today after worship, we will have a short meeting to update the congregation on how things are going at HLC. This meeting will include an update on our search for a permanent home. This meeting will take place after worship.



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