

April 24, 2022

Wrestling with Doubt - Finding Faith



GATHERING MUSIC Jazz Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP source: Pastor Andreas Wagner
inspired by John 20:24-29

Leader: Thomas said:
“Unless I see the mark of the nails
and put my hand in his side,
I will not believe.”

**All: We are often skeptical people,
driven by our senses,
relying on that which we can hear, see, or
prove.**

Leader: Our Lord asks us to see the invisible,
to trust in the spirit, to have faith.

All: Lord, give us faith!

Leader: Sometimes we get carried away by our emotions,
by wishful thinking
and by popular trends that pull us in.

**All: Lord, help us to be bold in our beliefs,
but also careful as Thomas was.
Move us beyond mere trust in ordinary things
and open our eyes for spiritual realities.**

Leader: Jesus said: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN vs 1, 3-5 ***Sing Out, Earth and Skies***

1 Leader

Come, O God of all the earth:
come to us, O Righteous One;
come, and bring our love to birth:
in the glory of your Son.

All: Refrain

**Sing out, earth and skies!
Sing of the God who loves you!
Raise your joyful cries!
Dance to the life around you!**

3 All

Come, O God of flashing light:
twinkling star and burning sun;
God of day and God of night:
in your light we all are one. *Refrain*

4 All

Come, O God of snow and rain:
shower down upon the earth;
come, O God of joy and pain:
God of sorrow, God of mirth. *Refrain*

5 All

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace:
come and shape our hearts anew;
come and make oppression cease:
bring us all to life in you. *Refrain*

LITANY IN OBSERVANCE OF EARTH DAY

source: Fran Pratt

Pastor: God, on this day we celebrate the gift of this planet, Earth,
Which you created for us as a home:

All: A home for humanity

Pastor: A home for creatures

All: A home for plants

Pastor: A good gift of creation.

Pastor: We are truly sorry for the ways we have corrupted it.

All: Forgive us.

Pastor: We are truly sorry for the ways we have disregarded its
well-being.

All: Forgive us.

Pastor: We are truly sorry for the ways we've been complicit in
systems that degrade it.

All: Forgive us.

Pastor: Help us, O God,

All: To be good stewards of your gifts to us.

Pastor: Help us, O God,

All: To realize our connectedness to creation.

Pastor: Help us, O God,

All: To understand our reliance upon the Earth.

Pastor: Help us, O God,

All: To bring healing to the planet.

Pastor: Help us, O God,

All: To make changes that benefit all creatures.

Pastor: As all creation praises and glorifies you,

All: So we praise you.

Pastor: As all creation reflects your character and beauty,

All: So we seek to reflect your beauty.

Pastor: As all creation supports and sustains us,

All: So we seek to support one another.

Pastor: For the gracious gift and vast beauty of creation,
All: **We give thanks.**
Amen

SONG OF RESPONSE #379 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
 wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
 love lives again, that with the dead has been;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
 thinking that he would never wake again;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
 your touch can call us back to life again,
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY

BEYOND Update with All Church Serve, May 21 & Ground Breaking Day, May 22

SCRIPTURE READING... REVELATION 1:4-8 (NRSV)

Read by: (8:15) Jennifer Arndt, (10:45) Carole Morgan

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC Jazz Ensemble

GOSPEL READING... JOHN 20:19-31 (NRSV) Read by: Dave Wegner
When 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.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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.'

A 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.' Then 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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner

MESSAGE Dave Wegner **"I Doubt It"**

MESSAGE SONG #635 vs 1, 2, 4, 5 ***We Walk By Faith***

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
 with gracious words draw near,
 O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
 "My peace be with you here."

- 2 We may not touch your hands and side,
 nor follow where you trod;
 but in your promise we rejoice,
 and cry, "My Lord and God!"

4 For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.

5 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

CHRIST HYMN CREED... based on Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -
even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by: (8:15) Jennifer Arndt, (10:45) Carole Morgan

THANK OFFERING

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: shephills.org/give.
- Scan the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746



GENEROSITY MOMENT Baby Care Kits

To Sponsor a Kit, donate by scanning the QRCode:

LWR Baby Care Kits
for babies in need around the world.

SPONSOR A KIT
(\$50 purchases a full kit)

Receiving blankets, Towel, Cloth diapers, Diaper pins, T-shirts, Soap, Socks, Gowns, Jacket

What's in a Baby Care Kit?

For Mother's Day:

In Honor of
(insert name here)
on Mother's Day

A special donation has been made to **Lutheran World Relief**, an internationally known nonprofit dedicated to ending poverty, injustice, and human suffering around the world. This gift in your honor will provide a Baby Care Kit to help a mother in need clothe and care for her baby.

Love,
(insert name here)

Blankets are still needed for Baby Care Kits



OFFERING MUSIC Jazz Ensemble

PRAYER OF THANKS

OFFERING RESPONSE #679 v 1 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

COMMUNION INVITATION

As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive the Risen presence of Jesus.

God is really present—in bread and wine—forgiving sins and promising new life.

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;
Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

COMMUNION MUSIC Jazz Ensemble

COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

COMMISSIONING SONG

#364 vs 1, 4-5

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

COMMISSIONING by Ana Gobledale, adapted

Leader: We are emboldened by the witness of Thomas to share
and learn from our doubts, and to question what we hold
as absolute truths. In doing so, may we grow ever closer to
Jesus! We go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God...and We Will!**

POSTLUDE Jazz Ensemble

PRAYERS

Please pray for Sandy Nielsen and Tom Smith

Please pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

JoAnne Matava, mother of Vicki Matava

Emma Rosas, granddaughter of Sheila Hilts

Jordan Butler, son of Carolyn & Gene Butler,

grandchild of Sue and Ray Vaughan.

We give thanks for the life of Don Gaskin, who now rests in the Easter promise of resurrection. We pray for comfort and peace for Sandy Gaskin, and all of Don's family and friends, including our church family, in the midst of grief.

We pray for our Youth attending the Confirmation Retreat this weekend at Camp LutherHill.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and all who find themselves in the midst of war, gripped by fear and uncertainty. Send your peace.

We pray for our global ministry partners: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala. We pray for Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti.

Please pray for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All and Upbring Ministries.

Please pray for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

**Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks, unless we are notified otherwise.*

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastors Pr. Tom Grevlos, Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner

Preaching Dave Wegner

Director of Worship/Arts Kevin McClure

Altar Care (8:15) Sharon Collins;

(10:45) Ethel Kunze and Lois Qualben

Assisting Minister (8:15) Jennifer Arndt; (10:45) Carole Morgan

AV (8:15) Bill Dawson;

(10:45) Bill and Sara Dawson, Jamie Nichols and Peter Walsh

Hosts (8:15) Jeri Porter and Terrie Thomas;

(10:45) Anita Knight, Elaine Herrmann and Joe Calabrese

Admin Ministry Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg
Campus Operations	Dave Wegner
Creative Media	Dabney Gomes
Director of Youth Ministry	Joel Timmons
Executive Director	Bill Dawson
Financial Officer	Kevin Marlow

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!

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