

Easter Season

Fourth Sunday of Easter

e-Worship

May 8, 2022

9:30 am.



Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
8401 W. Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL 33615

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord! Organ/Piano Duo/Naoko Okada

GATHERING HYMN # 385

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

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P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P The risen Christ meets us at the tomb and turns our tears to joy.
C **For your love and goodness
we give you thanks, O God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us**

complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

¹The LORD^l is my shepherd;
I shall not^l be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down^l in green pastures
and leads me be-^l side still waters.**

³You restore my^l soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways^l for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall^l fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they^l comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence^l of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is^l running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days^l of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the^l LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: John 10:22-30

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

The gospel concludes:

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sing to the Lord a New Song

LCOS Choir

SERMON

Dear disciples of Jesus: He is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

I imagine that for us living in a global community, knowing that planet Earth is a vast mass of land and water with continents and many nations, it is very easy to imagine a global church and a global Christian community. But the Christians living in the first century didn’t have that knowledge, they didn’t know how big the world was and by how many peoples the planet was populated. And neither they could imagine that one day the church would be a

global community with disciples of Jesus multiplying through the centuries to form a community of billions of human beings that succeed one generation after another passing the faith from parents to children and from missions to new churches.

These multitude was dressed in white robes that symbolize complete purity and a priestly role, they stand before the Lamb and the throne of God, and they have a privilege that in the Old Testament was only reserved to the High Priest, the privilege to enter to the presence of God. Now the church is the priestly people of God, the church is always facing the throne of God and enjoying the vision of the presence of God.

But it calls our attention how the clothes turn into priestly white robes, the angel says to John: *they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.* If you apply blood to a fabric, the color is changed and not to turn white, but here, the clothes that are washed in the blood of the lamb are really the lives of the people, it is our own life what needs to be washed in the blood of the Lamb. The sacrificed Lamb takes away the sin of the world and for that reason our sins are forgiven.

The image of the robes washed in the blood of the Lamb is a description of our redemption and forgiveness of sins. As our sins are forgiven in Jesus Christ (the Lamb of God), then we are part of the multitudes of redeemed that are worshipping God permanently and enjoying the gift of eternal life.

Imagine the impact of these words on the small congregations suffering persecution! They can contemplate themselves victorious facing God as priestly people and as part of a multitude of millions of Christians that are like them enjoying the glory of the new world. The first Christians were suffering the great

ordeal, the great persecution of the church. But not only they. The great ordeal is the whole historical suffering of the people of God that experiences persecution, violence, and pain because of their loyalty to Jesus Christ. The great ordeal was present in the time of Nero, in the time of Domitian, in the time of the European wars of religion, and the great ordeal is happening today too. The whole human history is marked by the violence that permanently the people of God suffer.

The great multitude is a multitude of martyrs. The book describes that the martyrdom of the people of God has been permanent through history generation after generation. The church is always experiencing martyrdom and the Christian community is a community that needs to resist the temptation of living in a comfort zone to escape the great ordeal, because that comfort zone can mean that the church has accommodated its presence and voice to the empire (like Rome was demanding to the first Christians) and betrayed the Lord that was crucified by the empire.

In the last day, the day of judgement, the day of wrath, the *Dies Irae* of God, *who is able to stand?*

The answer is clear, only are able to stand those who *have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

Is not the Roman empire who will stand, it is not the ruling pagan class that is oppressing the poor people and the Christians in the empire who will stand. It is not emperor Domitian. Neither any other empire or emperor or ruler of the world through history who will be able to stand in front of God. Only the redeemed people of God, only the ones who keep the faith through history resisting the fear and the persecution of the great ordeal, only they are able to stand.

The promise of eternal life can never be taken away because it comes from the risen Christ, and this promise is always firm. The great ordeal that the Christian church has to navigate through world history cannot break the promise of eternal life that we have received. It is the opposite, the great ordeal, the great tribulation of the church is the great opportunity to discover how firm and strong is the promise that the Lord is shepherding and giving us the assurance of eternal life.

We can contemplate the message of the risen Christ to the church in the book of Revelation in the same way that the first Christians did. It is a message of hope. Yes, it is not a message of terror and distress, it is the opposite, it is a message of hope and certitude that we are always in the presence of the risen Christ.

This is the song of the redeemed, the song of the ones who resisted the temptation to worship the world of corruption and sin. The song of the victory of the people that maintained their faith in the middle of hate, violence, illness, plagues, wars, persecutions, pandemics, terror, temptations of all kinds, poverty, scarcity, famine, abuse, loneliness, depression, neglect, natural disaster, and all the terrible calamities that are part of the great ordeal that historically the church must experience.

But you will be victorious because you are already victorious. John saw you; John saw you singing the song of the redeemed and he wrote about you. He wrote about us.

We are safe, we are alive, we will live forever in the kingdom of God, where death doesn't have more power, where sorrow won't be present and where we will contemplate the victorious Lamb of God and will rejoice in his glory.

He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 778

The Lord's My Shepherd

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake;
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
NICENE CREED**

A Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith:

**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 worshiped 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation (*especially*). Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes.
Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding (*as did Julian of Norwich, whom we commemorate today*). Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life.
In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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;
and 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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING SONG # 764 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,

for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!

- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
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POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

Organ solo/Naoko Okada

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HYMNS FOR EASTER SEASON.

SUNDAY	Gathering Song	Hymn of the Day	Sending Song
May 1 st Easter 3	391	389	384
May 8 th Easter 4	385	778	764
May 15 th Easter 5	366	377	720
May 22 nd Easter 6	785	631	655
May 29 th Easter 7	434	382	855

May Birthdays

May 1 – Lindsay Muir Wood
May 13 – Rita Blyden
May 13 – Carolyn Kunzman
May 15 – Benjamin Major
May 15 – Maysie Richters
May 18 – Nikhil Saligame

May 20 – Audrey Howze
May 20 – Cherri Krall
May 21 – Douglas Howze
May 30 – Sarah Muir
May 31 – Gary Jordan



LCOS HAPPENINGS

May 8, 2022



Serving LCOS

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jose Luis La Torre Cuadros
 Deacon: Steve Smeach
 Minister of Music: Naoko Okada
 Bookkeeper: Nancy DeVries
 Publications: Sara Anderson (*alaskatour99@aol.com*)

Pastoral Care: Kim Jordan & Heidi Richter (May 8-14, 2022)

Please give your receipts from the Village Inn to Donna, Joe, or deposit them in the shoe box in the narthex.

**Liturgist & Communion Assistants
(April 3 – May 8)**

Sunday	Liturgist	Communion Assistants
May 1	Steve Smeach	
May 8	Heidi Richters	

AV Team Schedule

Sunday	
May 1 Third Sunday of Easter	Pastor Dave Kruger
May 8 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Rick Padin
May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Judith Stocker
May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter	Pastor Dave Kruger
May 29 Seventh Sunday of Easter	Rick Padin

Kaye Prox Food Bank

The food bank serves about 90 families weekly. Donations of food are always welcome. Especially needed are the following:

- canned chicken or tuna
- canned soup (chunky style)
- canned fruit (15 oz. cans)
- pasta, tomato sauce; rice, dried beans

For more info, please check our Facebook page. Thank you for supporting the food bank!



MEMBERS

Carol Cousins, Barbara Weathers, Marjorie Brozenski Dotty Richardson, Don Richardson, Fraser Muir & family, Pastor Jose Luis, Cherri Krall, Shirley Scheig, Jeff Whitman, Karen Hangartner, Maysie Richters, Parsons family, Connie Watson, Heidi Richters, Elaine Barnes, Buck Orr, Eddie Forte & family, Sal & Linda Pusateri, Janet Thambiraj, Gail Smeach, Barbara Beauregard, Lorella Swain, Terrence Hood, Roy & Rita Blyden, Gwen Leimbach, Della Griscti & family, Doug Howze, Charlie & Susan McCoy, Louise Betron, Lynn Richardson, Pat Sohl, Joan Baun, Elizabeth Thomas, Brian & Jan Spaulding, Joe Vetrano, Tirza Ontiveros, Peggy Davidson, June Wasylyna, Matt Baun, Ernie Largent, Michele Doleski, Rick Padin & family, Yolanda Jacobs & family, Kim Cross & family, the Major family, Julian Julius, Alice Rozell, Mid Brenner, the Groh family, Mike Watson, Steve Guenther, Jeannelle Gibson, and Lisa Paffenroth & mother, Kelly Orr.

RELATIVES

Karen Wakeman, Hubert Klein, Van Nyugen, Gage Richardson, Tim Harrison (Eddie Forte relative), Mia Padin, Christine Barry, Josephine Barry, Lisa Lanquedos, Charles Lanquedos,

Danielle Vinca, Milton, Eric Lovelock, Royce Graves, Joan Moguel, Patricia Campbell, Elida Machado, Nicole Phelan, Carol DeBruin, Vickie Williams, Alicia Marshall, Jay & Sarah, Clarence Hansby, Marty & Janice Burik, Kristin Hamway & family, Cindy Brann, Wanda Wilson, Channon Cramer, Arlene Berge (Sara's grand-mother), Amy Ashmore, Kaitlin Rodgers, Sue & Dave Brigadier, Jennifer & Arlyn Sieg, George Kucenic, Kenneth McCoy, Dorothy McCoy, Kenny & Kadence McCoy, Raymond Swain, Elizabeth Maynard, Kathy Caspio, Denmark Watson, Patrick McCoy, and Matt Doleski.

FRIENDS

Diane Litvak, Tamer Abbassi, Paul Cimiluca, Ellen Campbell, Tom & Helen Ferrell, Ellen Campbell, Troy Miller, Irvin Lee, Jones family, Sabrina Belkas, Marty Herman, Louise Stewart, Hunter Pinke, AnnMarie DiCorte, Celeste Christine Colon, Celeste Victoria Colon, Daniel Contreras, Monica Reis, Erik Reis, Albert Maynard, Wes Hiller, Rosemary Kratz, Linsey Jenkins, Monica Philbert, Tyler Auld, Douglas Robb, and Alex Baxter.

MILITARY

Staff Sargent Omar Ottley, Robert Ontiveros, Anthony Richardson, Jon Nygaard, Stephen Burnham, and all men and women that serve.

HOMEBOUND

Gene & Sue Camp

LCOS by the Numbers
Financial Giving and Gifts

This Year at LCOS:

Our Spending Plan for the 2022 calendar year calls for total expenditures of \$348,858 to support the mission and ministries of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour.

This Month at LCOS:

Our Monthly Need for May 2022 is:	\$29,071.00
Giving received to support LCOS Ministries through 4/17/22	\$ 8,113.00

Mortgage Reduction Fund

The members of LCOS agreed in 2009 that each of us would do what we can, above our regular giving, to stay current with our church mortgage AND reduce the principal when possible. Please consider your ability to put monies aside to help meet our payments.

Simply mark "Mortgage" and your name on an envelope, then place your gift in the offering plate. All monies received will be applied to the mortgage. Thank you!

Fund Balance at March 31, 2022 **\$838.75**