

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 12, 2026  
Nine-Thirty in the Morning  
Fullerton, CA



**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"Chain Breaker"**

If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles  
If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies  
If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside  
There's a better life, there's a better life

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker  
If you feel lost, He's a way maker  
If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison-shaking Savior  
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker

We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night  
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight  
We've all run to things we know just ain't right  
When there's a better life, there's a better life

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker, If you feel lost, He's a way maker  
If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison-shaking Savior  
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker

If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify  
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify, testify. If you believe it, if  
you receive it. If you can feel it, somebody testify

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker, if you feel lost, He's a way maker  
If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison-shaking Savior  
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker

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## WELCOME

## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

*The minister begins at the font, scoops water from the font and makes the sign of the cross †*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: People of God, in the baptismal waters  
you traveled with Christ from death to life.  
Your past, your sin, your failure, your doubt,  
are drowned and gone here.  
Your fear, your confusion, your self-righteousness, your despair,  
are washed away by grace.  
Your pride, your hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of you  
no longer define you.  
The Spirit lives and moves through you now,  
a great and joyful mystery,  
so you may bring love and mercy into the world  
as the body of Christ.  
Rejoice that God has claimed you  
in this baptismal grace,  
my fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus,  
not by your own doing or believing  
but by God's mercy alone.

As we begin worship  
we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism  
that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power.  
And all God's people said:

C: **Amen!**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN

### “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>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 <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 16

L:<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

C: <sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

L: <sup>3</sup> But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

C: <sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**

L: <sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

C: <sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

L: <sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

C: <sup>8</sup> **I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

L: <sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

C: <sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

L: <sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

L: Word of God, word of life.                      C: Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

The Lord is my light, and my salvation, the Lord is the strength of my life. (repeat)

So I will not be afraid, no, I will not be afraid;

Because the Lord is my light the Lord is my light, the Lord is my light.

In the day of trouble he will hide me;

He will keep me safe, he will guide me through.

The Lord is my light the Lord is my light, the Lord is my light.

In the darkest hour He will keep me; Evil has no power when he shelters me.

The Lord is my light, the Lord is my light, the Lord is my light.

### BEFORE THE READING

P: Today's Gospel reading is from the book of John beginning in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

### GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> 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.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN

#### **“This I Believe (The Creed)”**

##### **Verse 1**

Our Father everlasting  
The all creating One  
God Almighty  
Through Your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Saviour

##### **Chorus 1**

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

##### **Verse 2**

Our judge and our defender  
Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high

##### **Bridge**

I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

##### **Chorus 2**

I believe in life eternal  
I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints' communion  
And in Your holy Church  
I believe in the resurrection

When Jesus comes again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus  
CCLI Song # 7018338  
Ben Fielding | Matt Crocker  
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#### APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### OFFERING

#### "Great Things"

*Verse 1:* Come let us worship our King, come let us bow at His feet

He has done great things. See what our Savior has done. See how His love overcomes He has  
done great things, he has done great things

*Chorus:* O Hero of Heaven You conquered the grave, You free every captive and break every  
chain. O God You have done great things

We dance in Your freedom awake and alive. O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high, O  
God You have done great things

*Verse 2:* You've been faithful through every storm, you'll be faithful forevermore you have  
done great things, and I know You will do it again for Your promise is yes and amen. You  
will do great things, God You do great things

**Hallelujah God above it all, hallelujah God unshakable**  
**Hallelujah You have done great things (REPEAT)**  
*CCLI Song # 7111321, Jonas Myrin | Phil Wickham, CCLI License # 701016*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Bountiful God,

**C: we come with our offerings in response to your love.**

**With the new life in Christ, we give ourselves in service to others.**

**With the energy bestowed by the Spirit, we seek to inflame all your people with a zeal for your way.**

**Receive the work we do, and the gifts we bring,  
that they may become a blessing in your sight. Amen.**

**Prayers for Understanding**

L: Into the light of Easter morning I raise to you God, those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships.

**C: May the light of the risen Christ shine upon them.**

L: Into the light of Easter morning, I raise to you God, the places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life.

**C: May the light of the risen Christ shine upon them.**

L: Into the light of Easter morning, I raise to you God, the headline news of this week: we hold in our hearts the pain of those suffering violence, bereavement or conflict.

**C: May the light of the risen Christ shine upon them.**

L: Into the light of Easter morning, I raise myself and my congregation, the private struggles, the heart's yearnings, the hidden dreams, the unfulfilled potential.

**C: May the light of Christ shine upon us. AMEN.**

P: Prayers of the Church

**C: God, we pray for confidence to live your Word!**

L: Resurrection *(by Sara Jimenez)*

Heavenly Lord, our hearts are filled with the majesty of your grace. You have given us this world filled with the stores of everything we need. You've given us one another, with whom to love, work, struggle, and grow. Most of all, you've given us your Son and his resurrection. You've put our salvation ahead of all our good intentions and broken promises. We thank you for this gift of grace. May we keep it up front as we live.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BENEDICTION

God of eventual and elapsed, determined or distracted.  
You have, and continually persist in love.  
Your Word continues in the poetry of parables,  
Sowing the seeds of your kingdom.  
You outlast our numb and disinterested hearts.  
Your perseverance softens our soul to channel peace.  
As farmers of the soul, let us outlast hardened soil,  
patiently waiting for new life to break through.  
May your grace, peace, and love fill earthly and heavenly kingdoms.  
Go forth to serve and love our neighbor!  
**C: Amen.**

#### SENDING SONG

#### *“Go Make a Difference”*

*Chorus: Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence*  
**Go make a diff'rence in the world**  
*Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence*  
**Go make a diff'rence in the world**

*Verse 1:* We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see  
The love of God in you and me  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen  
Go make a diff'rence in the world

*Verse 2:* We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need  
The face of God for all to see  
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace  
Go make a diff'rence in the world

*Verse 3:* So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see  
Go make a diff'rence in the world  
And the Spirit of Christ will be with us as we go  
Go make a diff'rence in the world

*CCLI Song # 2945945, Steve Angrisano | Tom Tomaszek, CCLI License # 701016*

#### DISMISSAL

- L: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

