



Midweek Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER WORSHIP

April 18th at 9:30 a.m. In-Person and Livestream

Worship with us in-person in the sanctuary OR Livestream worship via Facebook. Join us as we pray to be filled with the words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the Risen Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MUSIC TIME

Join us for our first *Sunday School Music Time* with David McCarthy on Sunday, April 18th at 10:45 a.m. via Zoom. A link will be Emailed to our Sunday School families on Saturday.



CLICK ON OUR MUSIC LINKS!

“Next to the Word of God, Music Deserves the Highest Praise”

This quote by Martin Luther reminds of the gift of music in our worship life, and in our life of faith. Our Director of Music, David McCarthy, will be providing weekly music links of sacred music to offer inspiration, solace and peace. Click on a title to hear the song.

[The Earth Adorned](#) The leaves are finally taking the plunge, and even though this Swedish hymn is called “Sommarpsalm,” the words seem just as apt in springtime. I like how the poet connects the glories of botanical creation to, at the end, the idea that “all flesh is grass, and flowers fade, and time is fleeting ever; God’s word remains forever.” I learned of this song from “All Creation Sings,” and new hymnal supplement full of excellent new and new-to-me music, which Pastor bought for me this winter. There’s a lot of activity in the world of hymn-writing (surprisingly), with some nice poetry and music, and I hope we can learn some songs together this year.

[Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus](#) One of the things nerds like me get a tiny bit grumpy about is the association of Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” with Christmas. *Messiah* isn’t all Christmas! Rahr. So please ignore the Christmas tree in the background, and enjoy that choir-and-orchestra masterpiece played by an excellent handbell quartet based in Colorado



He Is Risen, Indeed!

**Atonement
Lutheran Church**

All Are Welcome

*Livestream worship via our
Atonement Facebook page.*

Join Pastor Gail and David McCarthy for music and hymns, scripture, a sermon, prayers, and a Children’s Moment.

You can follow us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and for special services by going to our Atonement Facebook page at [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)

A worship bulletin with hymns will be Emailed to our Atonement families, and posted weekly on our web site.

Board of Ministries

Zoom Meeting

The Board of Ministries will be meeting Tuesday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. A link will be Emailed to Board members.

Meal Train Signup

Dates Added

During this time of Susan Touhsaent's recovery at Unity Rehabilitation following two strokes, we would like to provide meals for Bob. Please visit our [sign-up page here](#) to view the available slots and click on the green button to sign up and enter your information (including what you are bringing to avoid duplicates.)
*Additional dates have been added to provide meals through the end of April.

Meals should be dropped off to the church before 5:00 p.m. on your selected day, and should be placed in the freezer for pickup by Bob. Thank you!

HEAR OUR LAMENT, O GOD

By Pastor Gail Swanson

I've just finished writing a lament. Actually, an entire Litany of Laments, written as part of our upcoming Synod Assembly worship this June. A lament for the suffering from the pandemic virus and for the toll it continues to take on the people of this world. A lament for church families still scattered and distanced, yearning to re-gather as one family of God. A lament for times of crisis and tragedy, when the powers of evil seem to be winning. And then...this one:

For silent acceptance of practices in our society and in our church that privilege whiteness over diversity; for failing to welcome the treasures of darkness and difference in God's good creation; for our complicity in the racism which continues to exclude and harm our sisters and brothers of color: Hear our lament, O God.

My heart is heavy as once again, rising acts of violence towards those of different races and ethnicities shake our nation. My spirit is tired as the breadth of hurtful, dehumanizing racism and the scope of its tactics multiples. I grieve at how vocal, how prevalent the white hatred towards people of color is; the unimpeded path we provide for it, the way we cooperate and participate in it.

*Listen, O God, and answer me for I am poor and broken;
Enfold and protect me, your faithful one; this servant who trusts in you.*

We don't need to actively participate in the assault of an older Asian woman on her way to church; our silence has been just as deadly. Racism doesn't get this emboldened without our inaction, without our averted glances and sidestepped difficult conversations. A white police officer doesn't press the life out of a black man in the middle of the day knowing he is being recorded, without also knowing that his partners and his politicians will defend him.

I grieve the realities of who we are and the path our country is on:

- Still blaming people of color for their own premature and violent deaths.
- Still erring on the side of the words of white people over people of color – even with video evidence.
- Still executing black men in the street and assassinating their character on social media.
- Still refusing to confront our own prejudices and unfathomable privilege .

*Kind and forgiving One, you are loving to those who call upon you;
Listen, then to my prayer, hear my cries and my pleading.*

To quote John Pavloviz, I pray that white people will not remain in silence; and that we will not leave people of color to defend their humanity alone.

The bullies and the bigotry are strong: Hear my lament, O God.

*Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. -From Psalm 86*