

Second Sunday of Easter

27 April 2025

HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #

Organist's Blog: <https://highwoodorganist.wordpress.com>

Organist: Rick VanderWoude Secretary: Liz Northam

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### + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

*It is appropriate to stand during prayer and when receiving the Eucharist during the Easter Season. The Easter emphasis is on justification: "Because of what God has done in Christ through the cross and resurrection, I am justified and can stand before him."*

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

#### GATHERING

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**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please stand as you are able.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

L Gracious God, ...

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*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

L God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GREETING

L 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.

KYRIE

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CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Spoken* Glory to God

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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L We pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Please be seated.*

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON A Reading from the Book of Acts

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." (*Acts 5:27-32*)

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Spoken* Psalm 150

Hallelujah! Praise God in his | holy temple;  
praise him in the firmament | of his power.  
Praise him for his | mighty acts;  
praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.

Praise him with the blast | of the ram's horn;  
praise him with | lyre and harp.  
Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;  
praise him with | strings and pipe.  
Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;  
praise him with loud- | clanging cymbals.  
Let everything | that has breath  
praise the Lord. | Hallelujah!  
Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,  
and to the | Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the begin-| ning,  
is now and will be forever. | Amen.

## **SECOND LESSON**      A Reading from the Book Revelation

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 forever 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. (*Revelation 1:4-8*)

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**      Alleluia  
*Please stand as you are able.*

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## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**P** The Holy Gospel...

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

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. (*John 20:19-31*)

L The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** The Church's One Foundation

**No. 654**

**NICENE CREED**

Inside Front Cover and Pg. 104

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please stand as you are able.*

L We pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are worthy to be held in reverence by all the mortal race. We give you thanks for the innumerable blessings which, despite our unworthiness, you have showered upon us.

We praise you especially that you have preserved for us in their purity your saving Word and the sacred ordinances of your house. Grant and preserve to your Church throughout the world purity of doctrine and faithful pastors who shall preach your Word with power, and help all who hear rightly to understand and firmly to believe your Word of truth.

Protect and defend your people in time of tribulation and danger, that we, in communion with your Church and in unity with all Christian people, may fight the good fight of faith and in the end receive the fullness of salvation.

Upon all the nations of the earth bestow your grace. Especially we ask you to bless our land and all its inhabitants and all who are in authority. Cause your glory to dwell among us, and let mercy and truth, justice and peace everywhere prevail. We commend to your care all our schools, that virtue and useful knowledge may be nourished and the wholesome fruits of life may abound.

In your mercy defend us from all calamities by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine. Protect and prosper all who labour, and cause all useful arts to flourish among us. Show yourself to be the helper of the sick and needy, the comforter of the forsaken and distressed.

Accept, we pray, our bodies and souls, our hearts and minds, our talents and powers, together with these gifts, as our offering of praise.

We pray for the sick and their caregivers, especially: Bruce Beamer, Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Dolores Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Genevieve Janssen, Julie Janssen Downe, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Amy Lynch, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Karin Olafson (Dakota, Remi and Ada), Jerry Rasmuson and family, Jim and Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Ron Sauer, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, John Watt, those we name aloud ... and those we carry in our hearts.

Loving and merciful God, we entrust Pope Francis to Your eternal care. Grant him rest in Your presence, where sorrow and pain are no more. Comfort all who mourn his passing and

strengthen Your Church wherever it awaits new leadership.

May we all be inspired by his example of humility, justice, and compassion, and may Your Spirit guide us in unity and hope.

And as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us to prepare for the world to come, doing the work which you have given us to do while it is day, before that night comes when no one can work. And, when our last hour shall come, support us by your power and receive us into your everlasting kingdom, where, with your Son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever.

**C Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

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**L** May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING**

*The congregation remains seated as the offering is collected*

**CHORAL OFFERTORY** “Sing Alleluia to the Lord”

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

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**THE LORD’S PRAYER (I)**

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**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

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**SENDING HYMN** Thine is the Glory

**No. 376**

**DISMISSAL**

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**C Thanks be to God!**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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WELCOME to all gathered here today, especially all guests and visitors. We are blessed to have you worship with us. You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby). Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship. Questions? Ask one of

today's servants or talk with the pastor. We continue to provide online worship for those unable to attend in-person.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jennelle Hughes for leading us in our service today, and to Christopher Poromon for sharing his musical talents with us.

WE THANK TODAY'S SERVANTS

Usher:	Bill Strand
Lector:	Emily Farrer
Assistant Minister:	Cam Schneider
Refreshments:	Thelma Jung, Cheryl Strand
Zoom Host:	Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Last week	20 April	Budget 2025
Current	\$ 1,245	\$2,911
Benevolence	\$ 30	
Building Fund	\$ 20	
Other	\$ 403	
Attendance	63	

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today	27 Apr	11:45 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments
		2:00 PM	CFMA Worship
Monday	28 Apr	7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Tuesday	29 Apr	6:30 PM	S.A.F.E. Place Peer Support
Wednesday	30 Apr	9:30 AM	12 Step Program
		6:00 PM	12 Step Program
Thursday	1 May	10:00 AM	Knitting Circle
Friday	2 May	7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Saturday	3 May	9:00 AM	House of Hope Worship
		10:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
Sunday	4 May	9:30 AM	Choir practice
		10:30 AM	Third Sunday of Easter
			Baptism Sunday

NEWSLETTER – The May issue of the Highwood Highlights is available in the narthex and downstairs.

THE KNITTING CIRCLE – has been moved to Thursday 1 May 2025 at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to bring your own project, work on a prayer shawl or join us in conversation. We're happy to teach you how to crochet or knit.

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE SPRING CONCERT – Friday 2 May at 7:00 PM (739 20th Ave NW). \$10.00 cash for 16 +, all others free. See poster for programme details.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Join us on Saturday 3 May at 10:00 AM at Ace Casino Airport. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship.

HLW BIBLE STUDY - All ladies are invited to join our bible study on Tuesday 6 May at 1:00 PM downstairs. Rides can be arranged with Pat, Clarice, or Helga. Friends are welcome too.

FESTIVAL CHORUS PRESENTS "Rutter Supper" on Saturday 10 May 2025 at 7:30 PM at Knox United Church. Purchase tickets [here](#). See handout downstairs for more details.

SWARM - The Southwest Area Refugee Mission is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 13 May 13 at 7:00 PM. at Advent Lutheran Church. A Zoom connection will also be available. As part of the Southwest Area of the Synod, you are welcome to attend. Please indicate your interest in attending to calgaryswarm@gmail.com and we will provide details. We always welcome new members to our CORE committee.

HOSPICE CALGARY - Dying to Know: *"Transformation of Hope Through a Palliative Diagnosis"*. Free online session 20 May 2025 from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. Presenter: Iska Hollman. In the illness journey, hope and hopelessness are intertwined, often unrecognized or given little credit. By understanding this connection, we can better support others in their journey of life and grief. Register [here](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS – There are posters for concerts, Martin Luther House, spring tea and bake sales. Perhaps something will pique your interest.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 9:1-20

Revelation 5:11-14

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm 30

John 21:1-19