

Order of Service – Second Sunday of Easter – April 7 2024 - 10 AM Service

**Preaching: Pastor Rick
Presiding: Pastor Bart**

Music Team: Merry Jo, Brock and Elaine

Welcome to worship!

If you are a visitor today, please pick up a gift bag and learn more about our programs at the Welcome Table at the back of the narthex. Grab a coffee and mingle following the service. A family friendly area is available in the Gateway to sit with other parents or to allow your children to enjoy some snacks following the worship service and Sunday school. If your children require a quiet place during the service, feel free to take them to the narthex near the fireplace area where we have few quiet toys for them to enjoy.

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to come forward for communion. If your children have gone through communion instruction, they are welcome as well. If they are not taking communion, please bring them forward for a blessing. If you would like personal prayer this morning, you are invited to meet with our prayer team in the narthex either before or after you have taken communion. Individual prayer is also available following the service.

Call to Worship: God Of Wonders (Congregation singing optional)

Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

Chorus 1

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy holy

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

Chorus 1

Bridge

Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth
Halleluia to the Lord of heaven and earth
Halleluia to the Lord of heaven and earth
Halleluia to the Lord of heaven and earth

Chorus 2

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy holy
Precious Lord reveal Your heart to me
Father hold me hold me
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy holy

Chorus 1

CCLI Song No. 3118757

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Marc Byrd | Steve Hindalong

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OPENING HYMN: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing LBW #363 Take verse out

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky,
Let streets and homes with praises ring. In death his love shall never die

Christ is alive, no longer bound. To distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now And conquer every place and time.

In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
He suffers still, yet loves the more And lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, Ascended Lord-He rules the world his Father made,
Till, in the end, his love adored Shall be to all on earth displayed.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, alt.
Tune: T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

LIGHTING THE CANDLES • WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (All) – Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we invite your presence into our worship this morning and consecrate this time to you. Be glorified in the preaching, in the singing, our praying and our meditation on your word. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him, in the name of our Lord Jesus, to forgive the iniquity of our sin.

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection)

P: Most merciful God.

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,

and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GRACE (LBW, p. 57)

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord’s resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

HYMN – I Was there to hear your Borning Cry WOV # 770

I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Text: John Yivisaker, b. 1937
Music: John Yivisaker, b. 1937

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM Violet Foy Schickedanz - p.121 LBW

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Pastor Rick

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35 NIV

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold

them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

PSALM 148 NIV

¹ Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,

⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² young men and women, old men and children.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

SECOND READGIN: 1 John 1:1-2:2 NIV

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. **2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL LESSON – John 20:19-31 NIV

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

PRE-SERMON HYMN: Hymn Of The Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit guide my vision
Help me see the way You see
Always Jesus ever Jesus
Christ in all as Christ in me

Holy Spirit guide my speaking
Words of grace and truth abound
Let my lips be filled with stories
Of the mercy that I've found

Chorus

(Oh) You're the light You're my path
You're the Shepherd of my soul
All I am all I have
Holy Spirit lead me on

Holy Spirit guide my hearing
Wake my ears to words You speak
In the thunder in the stillness
Let Your voice be clear to me
Let Your voice be clear to me

Chorus

Holy Spirit lead me onward
Walking through the great unknown
Trusting leaning holding clinging
Till the day You lead me home

Chorus

Holy Spirit lead me on

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SERMON: *Pastor Rick*

OFFERTORY HYMN: God, My Lord, My Strength LBW 484

God, my Lord, my strength, my place of hiding
And confiding In all needs by night and day;
Though foes surround me, And Satan marks his prey,
God shall have his way.

Christ in me, and I am freed for living And forgiving,
Heart of flesh for lifeless stone;
Now bold to serve him, Now cheered his love to own,
Nevermore alone.

Up, weak knees and spirit bowed in sorrow!
No tomorrow Shall arise to beat you down;
God goes before you And angels all around;
On your head a crown!

Text:Tranascius, 1936; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Tune: Gradual, Prague, 1567

OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW, p. 68)

P: Blessed are you.

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your Goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

The Prayers (Dialogue to be read responsively).

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

C: and his mercy endures forever.

P: They cried to the Lord in their trouble,

C: and he delivered them from their distress.

L: He sent forth his Word and healed them,

C: and saved them from the grave.

L: The Lord is righteous in all his ways,

C: and loving in all his works.

L: The Lord upholds all who fall;

C: he lifts up those who are bowed down.

L: The Lord sustains them on their sickbed,

C: and ministers to them in their illness.

L: The Lord is my strength and my song,
C: and he has become my salvation.

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
C: and his mercy endures forever.

L: Let us pray for those who minister in healing. Almighty God, source of human knowledge and skill: Guide physicians and nurses and all those you have called to practice the arts of healing. Guide scientists and medical researchers. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that, by their ministries, the health of all people may be promoted and your creation may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

Other Prayers

P: Praise to you, almighty God and Father. You sent your Son to live among us and to bring us your salvation.
C: Blessed be God.

(Prayers said for each person as they come forward)

L: Father in heaven, we ask you to bless your servant and his/her friends and family. For Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon them to increase in them the gifts of: wisdom and understanding, council and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord and joy in your presence. In Jesus name drive away any ailments of body, mind and spirit, heal all that is broken, deliver them from the power of evil, and keep them in the true faith now and forever. Amen.

Hymns during Prayer:

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty LBW 165 (All Verses)

Pour Out My Heart

Chorus

Pour out my heart to say that I love You.
Pour out my heart to say that I need You.
Pour out my heart to say that I'm thankful.
Pour out my heart to say that You're wonderful!

Here I am once again.
I pour out my heart for I know that You hear ev'ry cry,
You are listening, no matter what state my heart is in.
You are faithful to answer with words that are true
and a hope that is real.
As I feel Your touch, you bring a freedom to all that's within.
In the safety of this place I'm longing to

(Repeat All)

Hymn: Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Chorus

Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Chorus

Through this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Chorus

When my feeble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Chorus

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Weldon C. Kennedy
Kennedy, Weldon
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I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day;
I don't borrow from the sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said;
And today I'll walk beside him, For He knows what lies ahead.

Chorus

Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow, And I know who holds my hand.

Every step is getting brighter As the golden stairs I climb;
Every burden's getting lighter, Every cloud is silver lined.
There, the sun is always shining, There, no tear will dim the eye
At the ending of the rainbow, Where the mountains touch the sky.

Chorus

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Ira Stanphill
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CONCLUDING PRAYER

L: Let us pray:

C: Merciful Lord God, constant source of all blessing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have salvation. As in this time, we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, sorrow and injustice, and all people will know you, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives, to work for the fulfilling of your purposes and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Please see sheet attached

CLOSING HYMN: Glorious

Look inside the myst'ry, See the empty cross;
See the risen Savior, Victorious and strong.
No one else above Him, None as strong to save;
He alone has conquered The power of the grave

Chorus

Glorious, My eyes have seen the glory of the Lord;
Glorious, He stands above the rulers of the earth;
Glorious glorious, Lord You are glorious.

Look beyond the tombstone, See the living God;
See the resurrected Ruler of my heart;
No one else above Him, None to match His worth;
The hope of His returning Fills the universe.

Chorus

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P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week-at-a-Glance:

Apr 7 – Worship, 10 AM followed by the Annual General Meeting
Apr 10 –Wed, 10 AM: Grandparenting and the Faith
Apr 11 – Thur, 10 AM: Bible Study (Pastor Paul)
Apr 14 – Sun, 10 AM: Worship Service & Installation of our church council

Month in Advance:

Apr 18 – Thur, 10 AM: Bible Study (Pastor Paul)
Apr 19 & 20, Fri / Sat: CALC National Convention in Nisku
April 21 – Sun, 10 AM: Worship Service (*Mission Possible* with special Guest Pastor Roland Syens)
April 23 – Tues, 6 PM: Christian Caregiving Meeting (starting with soup)
Apr 25 – Thur, 10 AM: Bible Study (Pastor Paul)
Apr 26 & 27 – Fri / Sat: *Behold Him – The One Who Transforms* (see below for details)
Apr 27 – Sat, 8 AM: Men's Breakfast

Pray for St. Peter's

Please remember to keep praying for the church, our pastors, leaders, members and their families.

Annual Meeting- Today

Please pick up a copy of your annual report and join us for the annual meeting today following worship. All who attend St. Peter's and those who consider this their church home are welcome to attend. If you are not a member, we welcome your voice, but you will not be able to vote. Please pray for the meeting.

Baptism Today - Violet Foy

Daughter of Elily and Will Born December 28, 2023
Godmothers Adeline and Sarah

The Tabernacle - May 11, 7PM

Make sure you put The Tabernacle evening worship service on your calendar and invite a friend!

Grandparenting and the Faith – Wed. April 10, 10 AM

We are called to *vocation* as Christians. Grandparents are called to pass on the faith to their grandchildren. How do you do this? Are there strategies? Join us to find out.

Installation of our Council – Sunday, April 14 (during worship)

Come and meet our new council as we install them and pray for their leadership. We are thankful for those serving in this capacity at St. Peter's.

CALC National Convention in Nisku – April 19 & 20

Dr. Leon Miles is this year's keynote speaker. The world around us seems to be going the wrong direction in many ways. This may lead us to wonder where God is in the middle of all these things which seem to be getting worse each day. God does have a plan for these things, however. As the world seems to get worse, the message of God's love and forgiveness shines even more brightly. In Dr. Mile's presentation, we are going to discuss how the ways in which the world is turning away from God right now are going to give us the opportunity to speak the gospel in new and distinct ways to a new generation of people who do not know the love that God has for them. Through the inevitable hardships and suffering coming into the world through the evils we see all around us, we can share the love of God with them. We are going to look at the opportunities we have and what it will mean for us to take them. St. Peter's is looking for some delegates for the convention business sessions. Speak with Gary Buss. **Further information at: CALC.CA – Then click on the events tab.**

Sunday April 21, 10 AM – *Mission Possible*

We are very thankful to have Pastor Roland teaching and preaching at our worship service on April 21. He has served as a missionary in Ukraine (over 10 years) and has been involved in numerous mission-related activities, the most recent being in Africa. Come and hear from Pastor Roland and his wife Anita as they share their amazing stories and discover how is anything is possible with God. Light lunch to follow.

Behold Him – The One Who Transforms is coming to St. Peter's on Friday, April 26 (7 PM) and Saturday, April 27 (10 AM-3 PM). This exciting 40-piece art collection is an immersive experience of our King Jesus, the one true Monarch; to behold Him from birth to the cross, resurrection to the throne, in anticipation of His immanent return. Mindi Oaten, the artist, will display the whole collection for the first time with a hope that viewers are inspired to reflect upon their own spiritual journey. Mark your calendars for this spiritually enriching collection of art. Please invite your friends and neighbours.

Small Group Round-Up - May 8, 7 PM – 9PM An evening to explore our first year of small groups. We share what we have learned, and hear stories of why small groups are important in our faith journey. Come and see if joining a small group might be a good opportunity to grow your faith, meet new friends and draw closer to Jesus. All those who enjoyed the study on Pilgrims Progress, please come and share you experience.

Church Spring Clean-up - May 18

Please put this on your calendar. More information to how you might help is forth coming.

Getting to Know You

Last year, Erica and Pastor Rick invited people to their home to get to know them and hear their stories. We have so many new people in the church. They would love to open up their home again on Tuesday evenings. One of the side benefits is that you get to know each other as well! There are sheets on the welcoming table where you can sign up for one of the following Tuesday evenings: **May 21 or 28 / June 4 or 18**

Bible Camps

Don't miss out on registering for one of our church Bible camps! Please find information on the bulletin board. You can also check them out directly:

- Hasting Lake Lutheran Bible Camp (www.hastingslake.com)
- Mulhurst Lutheran Bible Camp (<https://www.mulhurstcamp.ca/>)
- Wilderness Ranch Camp (<https://www.wildernessranchalberta.com/>)

Learn Guitar – Every Sunday after Worship

Starting at very beginner level and aiming at grade 4 children and up to and including adults. This is a group class, not private lessons, and we just learn basic chords and strumming, but it's free. Some kids can have troubles playing guitar, others have no troubles. But if you are interested, talk to Pastor Bart.

Men's Ministry

Now that Pastor Rick's call has been confirmed, he will be working hard to develop a strong and vibrant men's ministry for all ages. He is looking for committed men to help him design, construct and implement a strategy to encourage men in their faith. Interested? Our first big event is a men's retreat scheduled for the weekend of November 1-3 at Rivers Edge Bible Camp. Please speak with him or email him rick@rickbergh.com

Steve Bell Workshop at St. Peter's – February 2025

This amazing opportunity will take place in early February (Friday evening and all-day Saturday workshop, date TBC). Come and explore the depth and mystery of the Trinity with musician and liturgist, Steve Bell. Join Pastor Rick and Mike to be part of the planning and implementation of this important event. This is rare opportunity to have Steve Bell come to a small venue and to have him all to ourselves. You won't want to miss out on this!