

Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025

**Everything [in] between
Grief and Hope**



Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

About the Art

Fill My Cup by Steve Prince Inspired by Luke 24:1-12 Pen and ink on paper

For me, to not know Christ is to live a life thirsty for truth, meaning, understanding, and purpose. We search and search and it feels like we cannot find the thing that we were hoping for. It is not until we surrender and trust in faith that we are able to find peace. We must open the door of our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to enter and to do the work. Many will see us and not believe that the peace we exude is real, looking at us with skeptical eyes. Many will come thirsty, wondering from whence cometh our help, and some will know, and they shall rejoice for we have seen the light. Our daily prayer is that God will have us thirst no more and fill our cup. —*Steve Prince*

Prompts for contemplation

- Look at the three women. What expressions do you see? How do their eyes, faces, and postures impact the mood of the image?
- Focus on the middle woman. What do you think the house in her body symbolizes?
- Notice the flow of energy and movement in the image. What direction does it seem to be moving in, and how does it impact the feeling or message of the artwork?
- What does the man's position in the image suggest about his role in the scene? How does he relate to the figures and the action surrounding him



Welcome to our Service

Our mission at Mount Tabor is to be “an inclusive, compassionate faith community living God’s love in the world.” Mount Tabor is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation of the ELCA. This means that all are welcome and affirmed, especially our LGBTQ+ siblings, and that we are connected to the world. We all have a place here at God’s round table just as we are!

If this is your first time here, a special welcome to you! We are mask optional and mask friendly. Please sign the guest register in the narthex (along with your e-mail and cell) so we can be in touch, put on a name tag and join us for refreshments after the service.

Holy Communion is open to all. Children of all ages are invited to receive communion with their parents’ or guardians’ permission. Come when you are ready. Gluten-free bread is available. If you would like a blessing, come to the altar with your arms folded.

Children are welcome at all times in the sanctuary. We are blessed to be part of their faith formation through worship!

Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary before worship begins.

You may add names to the prayer list by sending a request to Brenda Wardle (office@mttaborslc.org), or Pastor Christine (pastor@mttaborslc.org). Names added to the prayer list will remain there for one month. You may request that they stay on longer or come off sooner by contacting the same people.

Visit our web site at www.mttaborslc.org

We welcome and thank Bob and Brenna Brown playing trumpets today.

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 20, 2025

ELW Setting Four

*Please stand as you are able until you are directed to be seated.

Greeting & Preparation for Worship

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as the People of God.

*Call to Worship

My dear friends,
we have known grief.
We have known loss.
We have known the long road, tired and winding.
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today—

today we know hope.

Today we know life.

Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

It is Easter.

May hope find you.

And may you know,

deep in your bones,

that today is a new day.

Alleluia! Amen.

Processional Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

#365

***Call to Confession**

Faithful friends today is a joyful day! If I were to ask you what parts of today's service feel joyful, you'd probably say the music, the passing of the peace, or the flowers in the sanctuary. You might say the sermon, or the crowded room. But it's unlikely that any of you would name the prayer of confession, because the prayer of confession has a reputation for being somber and serious. But perhaps the prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page. Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again. When we move closer to God, we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love. And my friends, that is joyful. That feels like Easter, doesn't it? So, join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day. That joy doesn't stop here. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles of the resurrection. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb." Luke 24:10-12

Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith, At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving,

**when we're shouting and when we're silent,
when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.
God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days,
and every day in between.
Thanks be to God for this good news!
Alleluia! Amen.**

Gathering Song

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

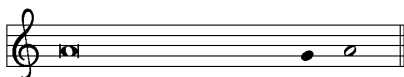
#382

Greeting

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

And also, with you.

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



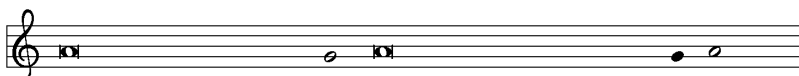
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



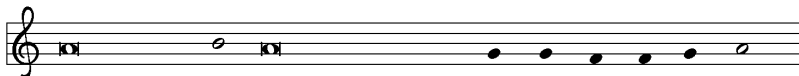
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
 Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

Prayer of the Day

God of Alleluias and empty tombs,
 God of garden plots and good news,
 it is Easter. It is *finally* Easter.

In a world full of grief and heartache,
 in a world full of violence and oppression,
 in a world full of loss and separation,
 we long for this day
 because Easter sings a different song.

Easter sings a song of hope.
Easter sings a song of new life.
Easter sings a song of love that makes you want to jump out of your chair
and run barefoot to the tomb.
Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread.
It sounds like trumpets and laughter.
It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug.
Yes, Easter sings a different song.

So in a world full of grief,
help us to cling to Easter's hope.
In a world full of grief,
help us hear this story of good news.
In a world full of grief,
we're ready to jump out of our chairs
and run barefoot to the tomb.
With hope we pray, with hope we listen.
Amen.

THE WORD

God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching and Song

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them, they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They

shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD — and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent — its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Joy to the Heart

K Lee Scott
Mount Tabor singers

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

To be read responsively.

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²**Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

¹⁷**I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

**²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Gospel Acclamation**



The Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and

be crucified and on the third day rise again.”⁸ Then they remembered his words,⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

Message

Pastor Christine Higuera-Street

A time of silence follows the sermon for reflection on the message.

***Hymn of the Day**

Now the Green Blade Rises

#379

***The Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Fakhreh Safatian (Joy)
Presentation***

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly may be seated.

Listen to the Word of God: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God’s mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by God’s grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:4-7 (NRSV)

Baptism is the celebration in a Christian community when we acknowledge the grace of God that lives in each creation. In the sacrament of baptism, God gives us a new identity as the children of God, calling us into covenant embrace. Through baptism, the triune God seals our adoption as God’s children, transforming us in body, mind, and spirit in our community of faith. It is in that spirit of celebration and transformation of life that you present this child of God to be baptized into the body of Christ.

Sponsor: I present Fakhreh Safatian (Joy) for baptism.

Presiding Minister addresses the catechumen.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Joy: I do.

As you receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with and among God's faithful people, to listen to the word of God and eat of the holy supper, to learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, read and study the holy scriptures, and to grow in faith and prayer, so that you may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to do all these things to grow in your Christian faith?

Joy: I do, and I ask God to help me.

Presiding Minister addresses the sponsors.

The privilege of being called to sponsor a catechumen is an ancient and honored tradition. Su, I ask you to affirm your covenant with God, and Joy to help her fulfill her responsibilities as she grows in her Christian faith?

Sponsor: I accept this sacred duty to love and nurture Joy to the best of my ability. I will walk with her on her faith journey, share stories of struggle, faith and doubt with her, so help me God.

Presiding Minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, how do you promise to support Joy and discover the grace of God within herself?

The assembly stands.

With joy and thanksgiving, we will welcome you into Christ's church, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, support and pray for you so that you grow in faith to know, love and follow Jesus.

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses the candidates, parents, sponsors and the assembly.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of The church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the power of this world that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

In the dark before dawn,
we believe that God is alive.

In the midst of our grief,
we believe the Spirit is at work. In the chaos of our broken world, we believe that love is on the loose. For no stone could keep God at bay, and no violence could keep God's love from us.

So today we sing,
Alleluia! For somewhere in between our belief and doubt, hope lives. Christ Has died, and Christ has also risen.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Font

Let us now remember our baptism and give thanks to God as we celebrate this sacrament of grace today.

The Worship Assistant pours water into the font.

We thank you; O God, for the gift of water, for the waters of the womb from which we were born, for the waters of the earth that refresh and sustain all creation, and for the baptismal waters that bring us forth into new life. We pray this day for Joy Bless and strengthen her with the gift of your Holy Spirit, that she may know, love and serve you daily. Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

The presiding minister baptizes each catechumen by pouring water over the head three times.

Fakhereh Safatian (Joy), I baptize you in the name of God, our mother and

father, and of Jesus, our savior and friend, and of the Holy Spirit, our sustainer and guide. Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made the minister says:

Joy, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister continues laying both hands upon each of the newly baptized.

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, for your gift of merciful grace through the waters of baptism. Sustain Joy with the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Jesus, the spirit of joy cradled in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Welcome and Blessing

A lighted candle is given to each of the newly baptized.

Sponsor: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. Other gifts are now presented. A representative of the congregation continues and leads the assembly in the welcome.

Lee: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Lee: Joy, we bless your head.
May God grant you wisdom.

Lee: Joy, we bless your eyes.

May God grant you vision.

Lee: Joy, we bless your lips.

May God grant you the courage to speak out against injustice.

Lee: Joy, we bless your hands.

that they may always be extended in service to others.

Lee: Joy, we bless your feet.

that in all your journeys you will have a place to call home.

Lee: Joy, we bless your heart.

May God, grant you delight in the wonders of creation.

Thanks be to God!

All return to their seats as the service continues with the prayers of intercession.

Please be seated.

The Prayers of the People

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We remember in prayer.

Vicki Lange

Stephanie Wilson

Nancy Poe

Judy White

Paul Robinson

Travis and Nathan Jelsma-Beery

Harry Heightman

We pray for all those suffering the effects of traumatic events, natural disasters
and climate change. We pray for the recovery efforts, the first responders and
volunteers who are serving in these areas.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are
always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God Feeds Us with the Presence of Jesus Christ.

Sharing our Gifts and Gratitude

We provide several ways of sharing your financial blessings with our congregation. Offering plates are located at the doors of the sanctuary and envelopes can be found in the pews. **Simply Giving** is an automatic direct-donation method of supporting our life and ministry together. If you would like to enroll in **Simply Giving** or if you are interested in updating your giving amount, frequency, etc., please contact office@mttaborslc.org with your request. We are grateful and thankful for your support and wonderful generosity. *Alternately, feel free to use this QR code to contribute electronically.*



Prayer of Gratitude

Let us pray,

**Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The table is prepared as the assembly sings:

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Invitation to the Table

On that first Easter morning... So, come. This Table is for you.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of yesterday, tomorrow, and right now... we join our voices once more to pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying...

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Distribution *Come when you are ready, children are always welcome!*

Communion Songs	Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing	#389
	That Easter Day with Joy was Bright	#384

***Post Communion Blessing**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

**God of the mountain,
the valley, and every step in between,
may this meal be a fresh start.**

**May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed,
be the start of something new.**

**Show us how to carry the love we experience here
from the walls of this church into the world we encounter in the days
ahead.**

**Show us how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our path
and everywhere in between. With deep hope we pray,
Amen.**

SENDING

God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World.

Our Life Together (pg.)

***Blessing & Benediction**

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys, and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news and go in peace.

Sending Song

Thine is the Glory

#376

Dismissal

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Bob Brown

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EASTER SUNDAY:	APRIL 20, 2025
: Assisting Minister:	Jenny Jensen
Lector:	Chris Jensen
Usher:	Pierre Pearson
Altar Ministry:	Lee Kreutzer
Music Director:	Bob Brown
Remote Office Assistant:	Brenda Wardle
AV Technicians:	Duane Lee, Lee Kreutzer
Presiding Minister:	Rev. Christine Higuera-Street

Our Life Together Announcements

Easter Brunch Join us after worship for our Easter Brunch, hosted by the Council and Endowment & Memorials Committee. There will be a free will offering to benefit the Food Assistance and Emergency Assistance Ministry. There will be ham, quiches, fruit and more to enjoy. Stay after worship for this delicious event.

OAKS (Older Adults Knowing Strength) bible study and luncheon. On Tuesday, **April 22nd** at noon. Note that it's being changed to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, since Holy week falls on the second week of the month.

Senior Food Box Distribution Our distribution of USDA food boxes to seniors in our neighborhood continues with our next distribution set for **Wednesday, April 23rd**. Boxes are available for those who meet eligibility guidelines and have signed up through the Utah Food Bank.

Congregation Council Is meeting in-person April 27th after worship. One item on the agenda is the report of the personnel committee to the council regarding recommendations for the Music Director's job description and salary. As per the motion approved by the congregation at the annual meeting, we are notifying the congregation of this event.

Rally and March on April 27 from 2-5 PM at the Utah State Capitol Building. This is hosted by the Progressive Clergy Coalition of SLC.

Worship & Music meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5th at 7pm via Zoom.

The Welcome Table is the theme for the upcoming women of the ELCA UT Conference retreat. We will gather on April 26th, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Salt Lake City. Please join us for this gathering that will offer community building, fun, faith exploration, and prayer. We will also share a meal together. RSVP or ask questions by e-mailing Pastor DanaLee Simon who will be leading this retreat. Her e-mail is sagehillwisdom@gmail.com. The cost is \$25 and can be paid the day of the retreat. Scholarships are available.

Pastor Christine is available by text. Her contact information is 801-215-9208 or 619-459-8879. Emails can be sent to pastor@mttaborslc.org.