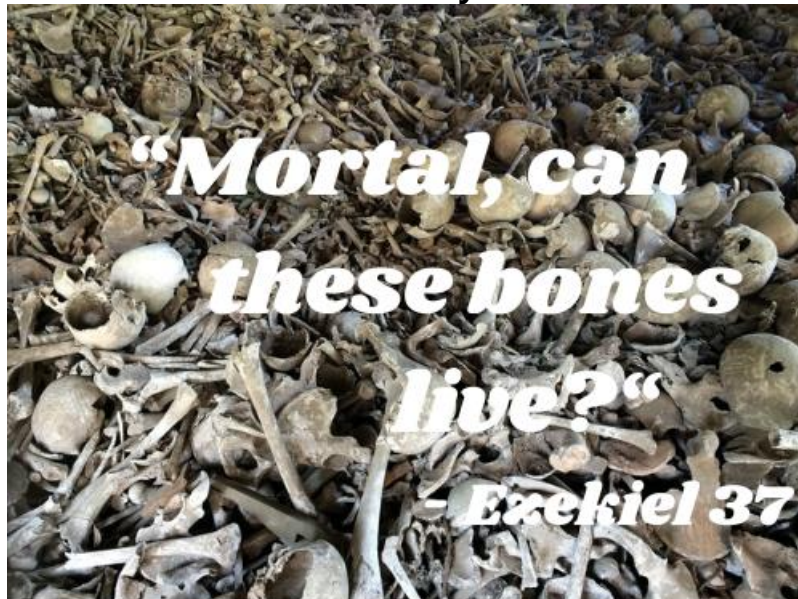


Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
Sunday, April 21st 10:30AM
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by LaVonne Biel in thankfulness for all the support in recent months from her Faith family

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Litany

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**
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Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the wellspring of grace and our Easter joy. Amen.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome ELW 641

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions (refrain)

(refrain) All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign a new. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus; (refrain)

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us; (refrain)

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger; (refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter; (refrain)

Greeting

The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day

Holy Lord, we gather in this place of worship with a sense of expectation. Surprise us, O God, with a new revelation of your grace. Surprise us with a story that will open new doors in our hearts and raise new questions in our minds. Surprise us with a deeper sense of faith. Surprise us with the resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Message

Centering Song **Come Alive (Dry Bones) by Lauren Daigle**

<https://youtu.be/7XAeyFagceQ?si=Kxr6zNYPLVI2G7Yt>

Welcome the Word

Alleluia, Alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. Spread the good news o'er all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen. Alleluia, Alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal,

can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.” ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

(refrain) Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your world alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. (refrain)

Longing, for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. (refrain)

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

God of Grace, hear our prayer

Peace

Offering

Doxology

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Use them for your glory and strengthen us in the risen Christ. Amen.

Words of Consecration

Written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

On this day, we celebrate the risen Christ

On this day, we celebrate resurrection in our lives

On this day, we embrace the grace which reaches from the tomb

On this day, we embrace faith by committing to love in action

On this day, we shout Alleluia!

On this day we shout, Christ is risen! Alleluia!

It is through our neighbors and creation that we see the rising of Christ, O God. We celebrate the shifting of seasons from one to the next. As the earth sheds its snow, it begins to drink in the warm rains and creation comes alive once again. And so in this spirit of brightness and life, we celebrate. We celebrate the risen Christ in our midst. We celebrate the table in which we can join together with friends and strangers. Through this meal which has stood the test of time, we covenant to love you, God. We covenant to love as Christ loved us. Through a simple meal of grain and grape, we, your children, unite. As we experience this Easter season, we ask that the warm winds of the Spirit encircle this table and accompany us on our journey. May this Spirit help us to recognize Christ present in our midst. May the Spirit open our souls in order for us to see humanity, God and creation through the eyes of Jesus.

It was Jesus who introduced this meal to his followers. Even though Jesus knew he would be betrayed and deserted by those at this table still he gathered with them.

As the night lengthened, Jesus took a simple portion of bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying take and eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drinking saying this cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Today, we celebrate this earth-shaking love of Jesus – a love that sent him to the cross, a love that overcame death, a love that lives eternally with us, encouraging us to live a resurrected life. May the Holy Spirit be poured out on this bread and cup as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Prayer

Thank you, Divine Crafter of the Table, for fashioning us a holy meal that unites us with the whole body of Christ. Send us into the world resurrected, refreshed and ready to share Christ's unconditional love. Amen.

Blessing

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✚ bless you now and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

Shine Jesus Shine WOV 651

Lord, the light of your love is shining. In the midst of the darkness, shining. Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me (refrain)

(refrain)

Shine, Jesus, shine. Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze. Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow. Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story, shine on me, shine on me (refrain)

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God!**