

Introduction to the day

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG *No One Does the Things My Lord Can Do*

©Jonathan Rundman/Salt Lady

Records 2006

Chorus:

No one does the things my Lord can do
No one does the things my Lord can do
He knows you in the womb
Meets you at the tomb
No one does the things my Lord can do

1. At the wedding water turned to wine
All creation listens to his word
Food for one can feed 5000 fine
Math and science bow to serve the Lord *Chorus*
2. Woman touched his robe and she got clean
Those who were tormented got set free
The lepers and the paralyzed got healed
Blind man washed his face and he could see *Chorus*
3. Wind and water follow his command
Peter walked across the rolling wave
Jairus' daughter sat up in her bed
Lazarus did step out of the grave *Chorus 2x*

EASTER PAGEANT VIDEO



SONG/DANCE BREAK: *Were You There?*

LBW 92 Text: African-American spiritual; Musical arrangement:

Jonathan Rundman ©2004 Salt Lady Records ASCAP

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

- 3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

- 4 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Barb Morris)*

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community known as Bethel Lutheran Church. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness
we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.
Thank you so much for your continued support in these unusual times.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.

Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With *Lynne, Mary, Elsie, Marian* and all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

COMMUNION

*During this time, you are invited to take communion in your home
or to be in a time of prayer.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Dance

© 2000 Lost and Found/LIMB Records. All rights reserved.

1. Now let us dance for the victory is won.
Now let us sing for the song has begun
Now let us live in the light of the Son;
Gathered and called and united as one

Chorus When we see the grave the stone is rolled away.
Hear the angel say, "He is risen!"
When we rise from death filled with God's own breath;
Dead in sin and yet, we're forgiven

2. At dawn as they walked sadly hanging their heads,
They fell in reverence when angels said,
"Why do you look for the living with the dead?"
Their mourning walk turned to dancing instead *chorus*

3 This same good news we believers proclaim
When we with water baptize in his name
Their message then and ours now is the same:
Jesus has the victory and Satan has no claim *chorus*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God and we will. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS