



## **Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church**

a community of the cross

called to confess hope in action

worshiping · serving · inviting · connecting · giving · growing

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021**

5300 10th Avenue South · Minneapolis, MN 55417 · 612-825-6846 · [nokomisheights.org](http://nokomisheights.org)  
a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Nokomis Heights is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Congregation. We believe the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to cultural or ethnic background; race; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical or mental abilities; socio-economic, marital, or family status; gender; or age. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their partners and their families into full participation in the life and ministry of this congregation.*

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastors	Kristen Capel, Steven Delzer
Organist	Julie Urban
Singers	Kim Bretheim, Sue Danielson Bretheim, Carolyn Deters, Tim Wicker
Lector	Ruth Murphy
Children's Message	Pastor Kris Capel
Camera/Recording	Dana Lonn

**In our prayers this week:** Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Jerry Casterton, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, the Harincar family on the death of Catherine Harincar, Mary Hurney, Dee Levine, and Erin & Evelyn Sachsenmaier; Mission Partners: Trinity and St. Peder's Lutheran churches, Community Emergency Service (CES), and Wapo Bible Camp

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**Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship  
Find us online on Facebook and YouTube**

**[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)**



**NOKOMIS  
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

# NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25, 2021

10:00 A.M.

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## GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Miller

WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

L: Risen Lord,

**C: We admit that we are slow to believe,  
and even slower to follow where you lead us.  
We doubt your promise,  
divide your people,  
and fail to proclaim the power  
of your resurrection.  
We choose to live small lives  
when you have given us the biggest gift of all:  
your eternal life.  
Forgive us.  
Raise us up to a place  
where we can serve you faithfully.  
Amen**

L: Christ is arisen,  
bringing gifts of life, mercy, and pardon for sin!  
Believe that you are forgiven,  
and go out and live in the joy of your Lord's resurrection  
in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

HYMN 710 (st. 1-2)

“Let Streams of Living Justice”



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

GREETING

L: The Lord be with you.     C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God,

**C: Your only Son was taken into the heavens  
 and in your presence intercedes for us.  
 Receive us and our prayers for all the world,  
 and in the end bring everything into your glory,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 172

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

WORD

THE READING

Acts 1:1-26

L: In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he

was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it’; and ‘Let another take his position of overseer.’ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **VIDEO REFLECTION**

“Rise”

The Work of the People

#### **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 24:50-53**

L: Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **SERMON**

HYMN 396 (st. 1,3,4)

“Spirit of Gentleness”

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



*Refrain*

“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Introduction*

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

**HYMN 721**

**“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”**

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is

Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

L: You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**



L: You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world.

Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy. Give those in authority the spirit of your love, so that all who are hungry and poor receive food and resources, and all people flourish and live in peace.

Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families. We also pray for these members and friends of Nokomis Heights for healing and peace (*here we pray for members and friends in need of prayer*).

Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: You have shown us, O God, what is good. To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. We thank you for the justice that was done this week in our city, and we pray that you would move our community to continue to be people of mercy, justice, love and humility. Lead the way, O God, we are ready to follow.

Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Conclusion*

L: 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.

**C: Amen**

#### **HYMN 721**

*See music on previous page.*

**“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

OFFERING

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

arr. Albrecht

### OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of abundance,

**C: bless these gifts to your benefit,  
and may all the earth know of your goodness and grace,  
offered through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD’S PRAYER

**C: 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**

COMMUNION THANKSGIVING 474 (st. 5)

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

*Refrain*

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

8

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the number '8' in a circle, indicating the end of the section.

5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this  
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with  
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born. *Refrain*

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L: By your grace draw your children to your table.  
By your mercy feed us on your love.  
By your power send us out to be your servants.

**COMMUNION MEDITATION**

“Here Is Bread”

Maynard

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

L: 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.

**C: Amen**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**“Christ, Our Peace”**

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di-  
vide us; Christ, our peace, come,  
make us one bod - y in you.

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes.

**SENDING**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Moment of silence*

**POSTLUDE**

**“Spirit of Gentleness”**

Carter

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