Those bringing you today's service include:

Rev. Phillip Carl, Presiding Minister Susan McCormick, Minister of Music Barbara Fielding, Lay Assistant Pete Bouwma, Videographer Shannon Melideo, Online Greeter Peter Metaxatos, Communion Preparation CTS Bell Choir, Musicians

PRELUDE

Slane – arr. Paul Manz

Opening Rite for the First Sunday Back

- By Dr. Gail Ramshaw, liturgical scholar and member of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who upholds us through adversity, who comforts us in our sorrows, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

A reading from Isaiah 54:10:

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Let us join in reflection and prayer.

We lament the losses that our congregation has suffered.

We have missed our weekly assembled worship, our sharing of bread and cup, our communal song, our greetings of peace; the full observances of Holy Week, the Three Days, Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity; baptisms, weddings, and funerals; gatherings for education; coffee hours; the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted each Sunday. . .

O God, we lament our losses, for they are many.

Restore us, gracious God. Restore us, gracious God.

We lament the tragedies that our world has experienced.

We lament the millions sickened; the countless dead; a multitude unemployed; medical systems depleted; economic security threatened; government assistance inadequate; political discord intensified; despondency rampant; future plans canceled. . .

O God, we lament the world's tragedies, for they are incalculable.

Heal us, compassionate God. Heal us, compassionate God.

Yet today we rejoice at this return to assembly worship and congregational life:

We are back to Sunday worship in word and sacrament.

O God, we rejoice at this return to baptismal life together.

Empower our church, faithful God. Empower our church, faithful God.

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And we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world:

We hope that mourners will be consoled; worldwide health enjoyed; a vaccine available; hospitals restocked; employment reinstated; poverty averted; sustenance shared; science respected; travel resumed; fear replaced with confidence; sorrow turned to joy . . .

O God, we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world.

Renew the whole world, merciful God. Renew the whole world, merciful God.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW pgs. 122-123)

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-15

A reading from Genesis.

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I

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ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW pg. 124)

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever

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blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

PEACE

Peace be with you **And also with you**

OFFERTORY

In Faith and Peace – arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW pgs. 129-130)

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.

It is indeed right...

...and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Christ The Servant Lutheran Church LORD'S PRAYER

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Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

How Small Our Span of Life (ELW 636)

DISMISSAL Go in peace! Celebrate! Think! Serve!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Soon and Very Soon – arr. Marianne Kim