



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 12, 2020

10:30 Worship

Death is the end. Dead people stay dead. That's just the way things are. Or are they? The resurrection of our Lord is more than just a story about Jesus who didn't stay dead. It is a show of God's power over that which we have no power. God promises to use that same power with us, meaning that death is not the end at all. In fact, perhaps just the beginning of really being alive. May we live in joy-filled delight as we await the promises of God which will bring us this true life forever!

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat. That would also be a time to use the chat feature for side conversations.

† OPENING †

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Bible Reading Matthew 5:13-16

[Jesus said] ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

The paschal candle is lit.

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Christ, yesterday and today,
the beginning and the ending.
To Christ belongs all time
and all ages;
to Christ belongs glory and dominion
now and forever.

C: Amen

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth who formed us from the dust of the earth, to whom by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

C: We glorify you.

P: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

C: We praise you.

P: Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

C: We worship you.

P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

C: Amen

Bible Reading Romans 8:18-27

[Paul writes] I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Reflection on the Scripture

“I Am So Thankful to Be Alive” from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder

Persistent Friend, Insistent Enemy,
from whom no secret is hid (and none need to be),
out of the thoughts and feelings which whirl within,
I grope for language to carry to you my secrets
and all the wonders that seize my heart.

Praise be to you
for holding me in the womb of mystery
through all the eons of creation until now
and raising me to life
in this time and place.

I am so thankful to be alive –
breathing, moving, sensing,
wide-eyed, cock-eared alive-
in this mysterious instant,
at this luminous time,
on this nurturing earth,
this blue pearl of great price
whirling through unchartered space,
attended by vigilant stars;
during these days of chance and battle,
with streaks of hope and holiness on the horizon,
touched by nature's pleading beauty
and friendship's steady hold.

I am so thankful to be alive-
eyes in love with seeing,
ears in love with hearing,
heart in love with attending,
mind in love with connecting;
eager to miss no message of grace
in the ballet of beauty
or in the cramp of struggle
of this incredible gift of life;
attentive to all the clues of love,
daringly and outlandishly
scattered for me through Jesus's life,
overturning habit and hate;
attentive to the dreams he renews,
the wounds he heals,
the promises he nails up
for me to step out on.

I am so thankful to be alive,
thankful for those times
when the rhythms of my life
catch the cadences of your kingdom,
when there is a lightening in me
for a moment,
when the creep of courage
allows me to dare to serve the gifts
you have put in me;
thankful for the neighbors you have put beside me,
and the possibilities you have put before me;

thankful for the surge of determination to accept difficulty
not as an excuse for passivity,
but as a goad to creativity,
as the door to abundant life,
and the seed of a peace the world cannot take away,
as it takes away so much else.

I am so thankful to be alive,
O Persistent Friend, Insistent Enemy;
hold me always in the womb of mystery
and raise me again and again, forever,
to life,
and to love,
and to the claims of your kingdom

C: Amen.

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

Opening Music

‡ WORD ‡

Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 15:35-44

(from The Message translation of the Bible by Eugene Peterson)

[Paul writes] Some skeptic is sure to ask, "Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this 'resurrection body' look like?" If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a "dead" seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different. You will notice that the variety of bodies is stunning. Just as there are different kinds of seeds, there are different kinds of bodies - humans, animals, birds, fish - each unprecedented in its form. You get a hint at the diversity of resurrection glory by looking at the diversity of

bodies not only on earth but in the skies - sun, moon, stars - all these varieties of beauty and brightness. And we're only looking at pre-resurrection "seeds" - who can imagine what the resurrection "plants" will be like! This image of planting a dead seed and raising a live plant is a mere sketch at best, but perhaps it will help in approaching the mystery of the resurrection body - but only if you keep in mind that when we're raised, we're raised for good, alive forever! The corpse that's planted is no beauty, but when it's raised, it's glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural - same seed, same body, but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality!

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 118:1-2, 14-25

Give thanks, the Lord is good,
 God's love is for ever!
Now let all God's people say,
 "God's love is forever!"
My strength, my song is the Lord,
 who has become my savior.
Glad songs of victory sound
 within the tents of the just.
With right hand raised high,
 the Lord strikes with force.
I shall not die but live
 to tell the Lord's great deeds.
The Lord punished me severely,
 but did not let me die.
Open the gates of justice,
 let me praise God within them.
This is the Lord's own gate,
 only the just will enter.
I thank you for you answered me,
 and you became my savior.
The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone.
This is the word of the Lord,
 how wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made,
 let us rejoice and be glad.

Lord, give us the victory!
Lord, grant us success!

Gospel Acclamation (1 Corinthians 5:7, 8)

C: Alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:1-10

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 28th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

A: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

‡ PRAYER ‡

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

1. Be with all doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who are dealing with infectious disease. Help them to stay safe as they work and to endure long hours. Also be with those who are suffering from COVID-19. Guide them back to health. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

2. Be with the missionaries we support, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester's South Wedge area, and also the Rev. Deborah Troester as she works in Zambia. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

3. Guide the leaders of nations to make good decisions regarding the health and welfare of their people. Give them the insight they need and the political courage to do what is right. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

You are invited to add your own petition. Please conclude with:

Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

† ENDING †

Blessing

P: The blessing of the living God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

C: Amen.

Closing Music

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

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