

## **EASTER Sunday April 4, 2021**

Welcome everyone,

We are delighted that you have joined us today for Easter Sunday.

We hope and pray that this time together supports your own spirituality.

---

**We will have Holy Communion together - separately this worship time.**

**You will need either wine or grape juice and bread of some kind.**

**You may use what cups & plates you have – do not go out & purchase.**

**Here is a list: a white cloth, large cup or individual ones, a large paten(plate) for bread or small – depending on the size of your family. A cross and a candle.**

This Liturgy is from the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship and the modified prayers this morning are based on those from Sundays & Seasons. Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths.

You will need a candle this morning to light during the service.

---

### **GATHERING**

#### **APOSTOLIC GREETING:**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

**P:** The grace of our Risen Savior, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: and also with you.**

#### **LIGHT THE CANDLE ON YOUR TABLE**

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

**HYMN: LBW 151 or ELW 365 - Jesus Christ is Risen today**

## WORD

The First lesson is from **ACTS 10: 34-43**

**PSALM 118: 1-2, 14-24**, page 272

The Second lesson is from **1 CORINTHIANS 15: 19-26**

THE GOSPEL IS **MARK 16: 1-8**

The women come to the grave as ministers of the dead. They only wanted to provide a proper burial for their loved one. They intended to act with deep devotion as a final act of personal and religious loyalty. It would be one last step of working through the pain and loss brought upon them by Jesus crucifixion. As we would say – it was meant to offer them closure. So they are horrified upon entering the dark tomb to discover that his body is missing. They are really bewildered!

Just three days earlier their leader, Jesus, had been laid there after dying a horrible death on a cross and the doorway was sealed by the Roman governor. Now the tomb was wide open, and an angel told the women that he was alive! He had risen from the dead and would see them in Galilee. Do not be afraid!

On this joy filled day of resurrection we must begin with the women in the empty tomb. We recognize their situation. We have all had to bury beloved family members and friends, at some point in our lives. We pray, and act with dignity for these –our loved ones.

For Mary Magdelene, Mary and Salome, they are shocked to hear the words; “You are in the wrong place. The beloved one has woken from death.” Not of their own doing, they immediately become transformed into messengers or ambassadors of the Living One, running out to tell the disciples.

The good news is that Jesus did a wonderful thing for the whole world. The Crucified One lives for all. This affirmation is unconditional. It is said in the name of one who already has death behind him, and whose love can therefore be stopped by nothing.

As we celebrate this event of Jesus resurrection, we are celebrating the rebirth of what it is to be fully human. This is to enter into relationships with one another in

a climate of daring, caring, open sharing with each other. Irenaeus, the great second-century theologian said: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Resurrection to what we are created to be: Human beings fully alive. We are not mere body-shells occupied by some immaterial spirit that waits to shuck us off, to be its own real self, cruising through some limitless cosmos.

If Jesus' was passionate about anything, he was passionate about life. Jesus declared, "I have come so that you may have life and live it abundantly."

The highest wisdom is found in the word of Christ crucified. We would have been lost forever had not God, in His wisdom, reached out to us through his Son. His true wisdom now comes to us in the cross of Christ. *We all stand on the same level ground at the foot of the cross*, where we are drawn to true faith in him. Christ crucified is the true wisdom and power and grace of God.

Easter is a day of faith. The empty tomb is an event of faith. The gospel of a risen and triumphant Christ sustains our faith. It begins with each one of us, like these women, who chooses to follow him into new life. Life can be tossed about with all kinds of curves; deaths and tragedies; illness and wars and injustices in the world. Remember: when we eat and drink around the table, we are awakened to the presence of the Living One. Remember: the beloved says to us, "I am with you always. Look for me, not for the things that are dead."

The tomb is empty because God love us!

The tomb is empty because God wants to give us life.

This is our Easter message to the world.

Do not cling to the past! Instead go and tell the good news!

Go and tell about the new life of the resurrection, about freedom and hope and that our lives can be beautiful.

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

## RESPONSE

**HYMN LBW 145 - ELW 376 - Thine is the Glory**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION ~ LED BY JOY STATHAM

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.

*A brief silence.*

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, those who grieve and those who are ill especially those we name before you now. Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: “your mercy endures forever!” Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

**The Peace of Christ be with you always - and also with you.**

## **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.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

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.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Please take time now to have your Communion at home.

#### **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 Savior and Lord.  
**Amen**

#### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.**Amen.**

**HYMN LBW 143 / ELW367 - Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**