

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
EASTER SUNDAY
Rev. John R. Hanson
Sunday, April 17, 2022, 6:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson, Musician

CALL TO WORSHIP

LITURGY OF LIGHT

All stand and face the rear of the church.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him and all ages; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

Easter morning began with confusion: the stone was moved and the tomb was empty. Mary arrives, then Disciples, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who

had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" "They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him. Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?" She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him, tell

me where you put him so I can care for him." Jesus said, "Mary." Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!" Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my

brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good.**

RETURNING THE LIGHT

May the light of Christ who rises this day in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle and upon us, so that all who share in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have been claimed as the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

As the Paschal candle is raised, we proclaim the resurrection, repeating three times:

Christ is Risen! (*boldly*) **He is risen indeed!** (*boldly*)

RECLAIMING THE ALLELUIA OF EASTER

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

Rejoice then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! (*boldly*)

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! (*boldly*)

HYMN

"Easter Song"

Hear the bells ringing, they're singing that we can be born again;
Hear the bells ringing, they're singing Christ is risen from the dead.
The angel upon the tombstone said, "He is risen just as he said,"
Quickly now go tell his disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead.

Joy to the world he is risen, alleluia! He's risen, alleluia!
He's risen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

NICENE CREED *"We Believe"*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Risen Christ Jesus be with you always.

And always with you.

HYMN

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease,
My comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again.
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

READING: Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 *Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity. Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—

well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone." He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we're not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets."

HYMN

“Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Oh, the wonderful cross, oh, the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross, oh, the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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SERMON

“Good news? God, our God, loves us this much! Mary ran. The disciple saw and believed. Peter fairly exploded with his good news. Can I get an amen?”

HYMN

“Mighty to Save”

Ev'ryone needs compassion, love that's never failing, let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the hope of nations.

Savior, he can move the mountains, my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save.
Forever, author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures, fill my life again;
I give my life to follow ev'rything I believe in, now I surrender.

Shine your light and let the whole world see we're singing for the glory of the risen King;
Jesus, shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory of the risen King

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WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

There is Good News here today, but we need to be honest with God to understand what it means for us.

Lord God, we are not like the first witnesses of the Resurrection. We have not allowed you in the true center of our lives. The women going to the tomb early this morning are prepared to face death. We seek life in places of death. We hide in fear, forgetting your promise, and we wonder about your witnesses instead of

witnessing to your wonders. Even early mornings dilute our faithfulness. Lord, forgive us, we are not ready for your glory.

There is Good News this morning, because we need not own a single fear, or doubt, or hesitation that the Lord our God does not overcome. It is by God's own faithfulness that Jesus Christ died for our sins and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day. For Christ's sake our sins are forgiven. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we too are to become witnesses, "apostles," to proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord, so that all may believe. To the glory of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Green # 543

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ, to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of the forces of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

If corpses can't be raised, then Christ wasn't, because he was indeed dead. And if Christ weren't raised, then all you're

doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever. It's even worse for those who died hoping in Christ and resurrection,

because they're already in their graves. If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot.

But the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries. There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ.

But we have to wait our turn: Christ is first, then those with him at his Coming, the grand consummation when, after

crushing the opposition, he hands over his kingdom to God the Father. He won't let up until the last enemy is down—and the very last enemy is death! As the psalmist said, "He laid them low, one and all; he walked all over them." When Scripture says that "he walked all over them," it's obvious that he couldn't at the same time be walked on. When everything and everyone is finally under God's rule, the Son will step down, taking his place with everyone else, showing that God's rule is absolutely comprehensive—a perfect ending!

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord: bless us, your servants as we go out to share the witness of your word with our absent sisters and brothers. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen us in the promise of your salvation so that all may know of your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us pray. Lord God, in your Last Supper, you left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the freedom you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. May almighty God bless us on this Celebration of Easter, and may he protect us against all sin.

Through the resurrection of his son, God granted us healing. May he fulfill his promises and bless us with eternal life.

We celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection. May we come with joy to his feast which lasts forever.

The Almighty and Ever Living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord!

Thanks be to God!