



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
RESURRECTION SUNDAY - AFTER EMPTY

Rev. John R. Hanson

April 12, 2020, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP OUTSIDE

PRELUDE

J. Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "Eastertide," Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

HYMN

"The 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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THEME AND VERSE

The theme for Easter Sunday is the resurrection of Christ. But, more than an event that happened to Jesus years ago, the resurrection is also something that happens for us today. Old Testament readings speak of restoration and new life experienced by those who have been broken. Paul reminds the Colossians that they too are raised with Christ and that they have life beyond the grave. We are also to remember that, as we receive Christ, this becomes our story too.

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:1 *A prophecy of hope and restoration.*)

ISAIAH 65:17-19, 23-25
Through the prophet, God proclaims his creation does not end in Eden’s garden. God’s creating power is evident in the earth’s creatures, in the people, in a new way of living!

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress...

They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

RESPONSE
Behold the Light of Christ!
The Light that makes all things new.
The former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
The Light of Christ renews us all.

CHILDREN’S SERMON *“I told you...”*

HYMN *“Death was Arrested”*

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin,
Lost without hope with no place to begin,
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began.

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name.
My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began.

*Oh, your grace so free washes over me,
You have made me new, now life begins with you.
It's your endless love pouring down on us,
You have made us new, now life begins with you.*

Released from my chains, I'm a pris'ner no more,
My shame was a ransom he faithfully bore.
He cancelled my debt, and he called me his friend
When death was arrested and my life began.

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross,
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost.
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand,
That's when death was arrested and my life began.

***Oh, we're free - free - forever we're free. Come join the song of all the redeemed.
Yes, we're free - free - forever amen. When death was arrested and my life began.***
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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. All the time.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10
Two women, named Mary, go to Jesus’ tomb, and find it open with an angel sitting on the stone who instructs them to go and tell the disciples that Jesus is risen. As they head off, they are met by the risen Jesus.

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."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. God is good.

HYMN

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Green # 151

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
 Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
 Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
 Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

SALUTATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Good News, today! Good News! But we need to be honest with ourselves and with God to understand what it means for us.

Lord God, we are confused, we are not like the first witnesses of the Resurrection. We have not allowed you in the true center of our lives. Unlike the women going to the tomb early in the morning, we become discouraged by the obstacles we encounter each day. We do not trust you to roll away the stones that keep us from bringing your Good News to all people. In fact, we can even let early mornings deter us from being willing servants of Jesus. Lord, we are disconnected and not ready for your glory. Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know, save from the sins we hide. Amen.

There is Good News this morning, because we do not need to own a single fear or doubt or hesitation 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.

READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Paul encourages believers to remember that they have been raised with Christ, that their life is with Christ in God, and that they should therefore discard the things of earth and concentrate on the things of heaven.

If you have been raised with Christ,
 seek the things that are above, where
 Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
²Set your minds on things that are above,
 not on things that are on earth, ³for you

have died, and your life is hidden with
 Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your
 life is revealed, then you also will be
 revealed with him in glory.

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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SERMON *"What does it mean to live 'after empty?' We recall the words 'Given and shed for you...' with new meaning. It isn't about getting, it's about what he gave! As we receive this gift, can we allow God's work in us, through Jesus Christ, to be able to live as one who believes in the 'after empty?'"*

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

Green # 448

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. We give you praise this morning. We give you glory! We give you thanks for your wonderful gift of new life! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your words of peace! As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SHARE THE PEACE

"We Can Be Together"

We can be together, now and forever, I love you, I love you.
And when I am prayin', I hear him sayin', I love you, I love you.
People all over the world they're openin' up, they're comin' around.

*They're sayin' I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you.
I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you. L-O-V-E love.*

Brother and sister, missus and mister, I love you, I love you.
Jesus made me feel it and I can't conceal it, I love you, I love you.
Jesus came into the world to show us the way, to set us all free, and when he died -
He was sayin' I love you, I love you..., L-O-V-E love.

We can be together for now and forever, I love you, I love you.
Brother and sister, saint and sinner, I love you, I love you.
People all over the world - they're openin' up, they've been set free.
They're sayin' I love you, I love you..., L-O-V-E love.

SHARE A SIGN OF PEACE

WORDS OF BLESSING *(from Maundy Thursday worship)*

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for	this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
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Do this. Break the bread and pass it. Take the cup and share it. Here. It is for you. I am doing this for you. Do this. What you see me doing. Do as I have done to you.

Almighty and compassionate God, you have brought us over from death to life through your Son, our risen Savior, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May the blessing of God our Father, his Son, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit be among you and give you strength within to meet the days ahead.

Amen.

As Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world. And may the same Christ, who lives forever and is the source of our new life, keep our hearts rejoicing and grant us peace this Holy day.

We go with peace in the love of Christ to serve the Lord. Amen.

HYMN

“Because He Lives”

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He bled and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives.

*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

How sweet to hold our newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives.
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because Christ lives.

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory, and I'll know he reigns.

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Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use this devotion and blank space to center your distractions in order to help you activate worship.

It is crucial that Easter Sunday is not allowed to become just an interesting traditional exercise. In every community, and in every life, we struggle with both life and death. The beauty of resurrection is that death is not so much opposed or destroyed as transformed and absorbed into life. And so, as we celebrate resurrection this Sunday, we are also called to live resurrection in our own lives.

This means that God is challenging us to face the death within us – the self-centeredness, apathy, destructiveness and cynicism that keep us and others from life – and allow it be transformed into life. It also means that we be prepared to bring life to others wherever we can through our compassion, hospitality, listening, giving, friendship, involvement and advocacy. When we become aware of how our actions bring life or death to others, we find ourselves making different choices. If our use of the planet's resources diminishes life, we will seek to be more responsible. If our choice of lifestyle or our consumption leaves others in poverty, we will live more compassionately. And if simple acts like engaging our neighbors to help to make our communities more just and peaceful, we will partner in bringing life to others. Flowing from these works we can speak with actions that are backed up by our words faith that can be, will be experienced as though living in Christ.

Devotion resources from John van de Laar at Sacredise.com