

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
EASTER DAY - DAILY WALK WITH CHRIST
Rev. John R. Hanson
April 4, 2021, 6:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet 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 the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

GATHER IN DARKNESS AND REMAIN SILENT

CHIMES

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Grace to you from Jesus Christ, who was and is, and is to come. Sisters and brothers, our Savior Jesus Christ has passed from death to life. Hear the word of God: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the Word was life and the life was the light of all humanity.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

Eternal God, giver of light and life, bless this new flame that by its radiance and warmth we may respond to your love and grace, and be set free from all that separates us from you and from each other; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.

Amen.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Christ is our light!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OPENING 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!

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!

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

THE GOSPEL Mark 16:1-8

Three women go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, but they find the stone rolled away and a man in a white robe tells them that Jesus is risen and instructs them to go and tell the disciples. Terrified, the women leave the tomb in total fear.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a

white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.

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

EASTER PROCLAMATION

This our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain. This the night when first you saved our forebears, you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them with dry feet through the sea.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

This the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. Truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth, we are reconciled to you!

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

May the Morning Star, which never sets, find this flame still burning. Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Alleluia! Amen!

REMEMBER THE PROMISE OF BAPTISM

Sisters and Brothers, on this day, when we celebrate the rising of Christ from death, let us gather at the water to celebrate our baptism, which is the sign and seal of our new life in Christ, by saying the promises that were made at our baptism...

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of evil?

I renounce the spiritual forces of evil.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ Jesus remain with you always!

And always with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross to redeem us, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die to sin each and every day, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The message that was preached by all of the apostles, and in which the believers believed was that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again as witnessed by hundreds of disciples.

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas,[b] and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the

same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

HYMN

“We Will Glorify”

Burgundy # 281

We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth, he is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe, all praise to him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings, hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

CCLI Song # 19038 CCLI License # 1713417

SERMON *“One of the great fallacies of human belief is that some individuals can find life and liberation alone or at the expense of others. The challenge of the resurrection is for all of us to realize that God has brought life to all, and that life cannot be extinguished by our foolishness or even death.”*

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection!"

Green # 141 (tune 495)

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
And list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Then praise we God the Father, and praise we Christ his Son,
With them the Holy Spirit, Eternal Three in One;
Till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
And honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to God alone!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

What will we make of this day?

When graves are opened... When the dead awaken... When life refuses to be contained...

Then nothing is impossible!

Hope is never extinguished, and love is never conquered.

We celebrate you today, Jesus,

Because you have made it clear that death does not have the last word; because you have filled us again with hope and faith; because you have given us a vision of new possibilities, new realities, and new ways of being.

Open our minds to believe what we cannot explain; open our hearts to hope for what we cannot see; open our lives to live and to love in the midst of death and despair;

Let resurrection happen again in us today.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMISSION

May the body and blood of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, keep you always in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Lord of all life and light, you sustain us with your very self, giving us food for our journey. Grace us with your continuing presence that we may be an active part of your work in our world, sharing the Easter message of Christ Jesus that all may come to know The Way, The Truth, and The Life. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

Amen.

PARTING HYMN

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

Green #131

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears,
Bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.

***Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!***

Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased;
Hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.

Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

The focus of Easter Sunday this year is, of course, on the resurrection, but this year, the supporting readings offer a tantalizing glimpse of the inclusive nature of God's Kingdom reign as it was expressed through Jesus. The message that comes through is that the resurrection brings life and salvation not just to the Jews, or even the disciples, but to all people. Paul reflects on how Christ appeared to him even though he was persecuting the followers of Jesus. The Gospels tell the story of the empty tomb – the moment of resurrection that made life available to all of the people that are mentioned in the other readings. The Gospels show the inclusive grace of God in a reality that would have been shocking for the first believers – the first witnesses to the resurrection were women, and it was they who were given the responsibility of sharing the news with the men. The essential message of this significant day in the Lectionary is this – God has given life to all people, and it is in this inclusive resurrection community that we find and enjoy God's life. This is not just an individualist, escapist Gospel, but an invitation for the entire cosmos to enjoy the gift of resurrection together.

In churches around the world the resurrection will be the focus of our worship, but for many of us, the celebration will be a remembrance of a miraculous event from the past, with perhaps a mention of our hope of a life beyond death. But, if this is all the resurrection is, it actually has little value for us now – or for anyone else.

But, if our celebration can connect us with the living reality of resurrection life now, everything changes. In our homes and families, we can live knowing that there is always hope and life, even after times of grief or conflict. In our churches and communities we can gather knowing that God's life is found together, and that we are able to bring life to one another

through the grace, love, care, and compassion we show one another. When we allow the resurrection to become a reality by which we live, and not just an idea that we remember, our mission changes from just trying to “get people into heaven” to bringing life to others in whatever way we can – big or small. When our lives become oriented around the resurrection, we cannot help but move away from just telling people about Jesus, to seeking to embody the life, the grace, and the all-inclusive compassion of Jesus in our own lives.

The resurrection, then, is not just an evacuation plan for us as individuals. It’s the basic principle by which the entire cosmos is ordered, and in which we participate when we share Christ’s life in every way, and at every opportunity.

Devotion resources from John van de Laar at Sacredise.com