



First St. John Lutheran Church
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir Director

EASTER ORDER OF WORSHIP – March 31, 2024

Prelude *Dr. Anthony Pattin*

Ringing of the Bell *(Please stand)*

(The service begins with the removal of the shroud covering the Altar Cross)

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

- P: “And (God) will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces.” *(Isaiah 25:7)*
- C: He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

- P: Christ is risen.
- C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today!”* No. 365

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

- P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.
- C: Thanks be to God.**

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**

- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

- P: This is the day when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave.
- C: How blessed is this day when earth and heaven are joined and humanity is reconciled with God.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of grace and glory,

C: you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

P: Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and (†) frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, "Peace be with you." We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:

Refrain 5 140
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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, 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Bell Choir "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" FSJ Bell Choir

Announcements

Introduction

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

More than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the good news of God's salvation and calls all people to rejoice! God will make a rich feast for all people. God will wipe the tears from their eyes. And most importantly, God will destroy death itself.

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24—Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.
Let Israel now declare,

"God's mercy endures forever."

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

"This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter."

**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

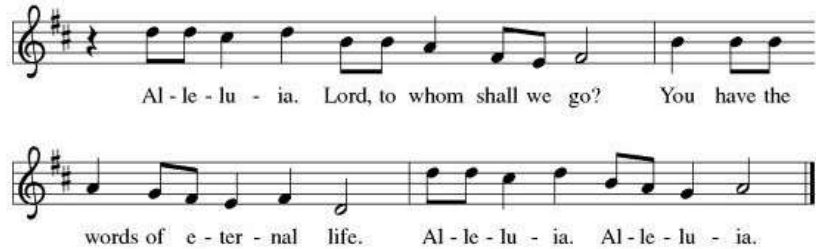
³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, ⁵and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁶and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁷Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁸Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁹Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ¹⁰For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹¹But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹²Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message (10:30 am service only)

Gospel Acclamation (please stand) - (sung by the Congregation)



P: The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 16.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You of Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Rayl

Message Song "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" No. 367

(Please stand)

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became
truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: your mercy is great.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory

"Because He Lives" FSJ Chancel Choir
Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day
you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life
in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you
and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer (*prayed by all*)

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

(Please be seated)

The Communion (distribution will be continuous)

All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."

If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, (+) the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Song "*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*" No. 369

Dismissal

P: Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

8:00 am - Bill Nelson, Mike Winslow

10:30 am - Tom Hartford, Bob Hecklinger

SOUND BOARD

10:30 am - Amy Nelson

READER

Susie Purewal

Thank you for visiting First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services at 8am and 10:30 am each Sunday and Sunday School for youth and adults at 9:15 am.

NURSERY is in the church basement and is unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

RESTROOMS are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

March 31, 2024

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Of All Days

Of all days this is *the* day which defines what it means to be Christian. Long before Christians were telling the stories of Jesus' birth, repeating the familiar parables, wondering about the astounding miracles, or recounting our Lord's teachings, they were proclaiming in no uncertain terms that Jesus had risen from the dead. This is the oldest and greatest of all the New Testament stories. This is the confession that separates Christians from those who are not.

Often we hear or maybe even say to ourselves that somebody has lived a Christian life, suggesting that perhaps being good, honest, moral, ethical, or hard-working is the definition of being Christian. Easter tells us something quite different.

Easter tells us whatever we say about Jesus--that he taught love, insisted on justice, fed the hungry, cured the sick, confronted evil, and forgave his enemies--if we cannot first of all say he rose from the dead, none of the rest will carry us to the end.

Easter is *the* day of all days. Without it we are left only with a good man, fading hopes, and no power to prevail against the ills and woes of life and fears of death.

The good news is that indeed God's word has been kept; God's promise is trustworthy. After three days Christ arose! For Mary Magdalene the Easter miracle became real at the sound of her name. For those early morning disciples, Peter and the beloved one, it happened at the sight of an empty tomb. For us it happens through the church's faithful proclamation inspired by the Holy Spirit throughout the ages.

The first word of faith is the first word for Easter: "Christ is risen, alleluia!" With that good news we trust and discover that every day thereafter holds hope and is filled with promise.