

EASTER SERVICE

April 17, 2022

GATHERING **The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is Risen. **He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.**

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 365 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1. 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!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3. 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!
4. 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!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. Blessed be God forever.

WORD **God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

PSALM 118: 1-2, 14-24

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 marvellous in our eyes.

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

GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means

Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 369 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!*

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia! offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! at the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
2. For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
3. Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia! when contending death and life, Alleluia! met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
4. Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

SERMON

READING

1 Corinthians 15:19-28 (The Message)

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 evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule overall.

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. 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!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

O The Wondrous Cross

1. 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.
2. 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.

Chorus

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

3. 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. *Chorus*

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READING

Acts 10:34-43 (*New Living Translation*)

The Gentiles Hear the Good News. 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.

Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel - that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

"And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all - the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbours, and our world.

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way especially Deb, Lloyd, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, and Carol. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world especially those suffering in conflict or war. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, mission and ministry, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.

Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the world, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ.

Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

EvLW # 167 Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain:

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. *Refrain*
2. Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honour and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*
3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

