

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Michael N. Vernava

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The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day)

March 31, 2024

The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.

CREATIVE WORSHIP

As We Gather: Those who followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem had hopes and fears, but their experience was within what they expected. So, Isaiah's prophecy, which we shall hear again today, was one of those things that didn't seem to apply, for it was too much of a change to take seriously. And the news from the angel at the tomb went far beyond that! Life after death challenged every understanding so directly that the women were startled into fear-driven silence—at least for a time. That very day others would hear the news and soon many would see Jesus Himself, as Paul tells us in the Epistle. Today is a day to embark on a life based on the startling new reality that death is not the final word for anyone with faith in Christ. How then shall we live before we see Him ourselves?

PRELUDE

Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace Handbell Choir

"Joyous Jubilee" – Brian Heinlein

OPENING HYMN "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" LSB 457

The handbell choir will play an introduction, followed by the organist playing through the hymn once. Then the congregation is invited to joyfully join in!



- 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 ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1-3): Latin, 14th cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707-88
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24*

- P The light of Christ!
C **Thanks be to God!**
- P All of you choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us:
C **Rejoice at Christ's victory over death.**
- P Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation:
C **Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.**

- P Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Christ both here and around the world!

C **Our Lord has kept all God's promises!**

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

- P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P We cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let us therefore give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to one another and to God Himself.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P Rejoice and be glad! God has not merely overlooked your faults; He has not missed your failures; and He knows the frailty of the human condition. Rather, He became one of us as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours and your sinfulness itself. Jesus not only paid the penalty; on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed

to all the world that He accepted the payment. Your sins are forgiven indeed!

In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PSALM 16

P Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**C I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."**

P As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

C The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

P The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

C The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

P I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

C I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

P Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

C For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

P You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

COLLECT

P Let us pray.
Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with

the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy 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 toward me was not 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He

has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment 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, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN *“This Joyful Eastertide” LSB 482*

1 This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow: *Refrain*

Refrain

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!*

2 Death’s flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver: *Refrain*

3 My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number: *Refrain*

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934 Text: Public domain

MESSAGE

**“Of First Importance”
I Corinthians 15:1-11**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY *“He Is Arisen! Glorious Word” LSB 488*

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav’n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan’s arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
O hear what cheer!
Christ victorious,
Rising glorious,
Life is giving.

He was dead but now is living!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt. Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" LSB 475

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt. Text: © 1958, renewed 1986 Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd., admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000368

CLOSING PRAYER

P Heavenly Father, as Adam brought death into the world in the Garden of Eden, so from the garden tomb, Your Son, Jesus Christ, has brought life and bodily resurrection into the world. Grant that we may ever be joined to Him as branches to a vine, that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit and enjoy the fellowship of the new creation in Christ eternally, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN

“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done” LSB 463

- 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 Hail, 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!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt. Text: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist

