

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

Easter Day

March 31, 2024

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!

Gathering

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

Prelude

***LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Repeated three times during the procession:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Then:

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation, around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!

Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;

and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.

**Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your king!**

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory!

The risen Savior shines upon you!

**Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.**

We pray that this candle, burning as witness to the risen Christ,
may ever be a beacon of faith and a light for our path.

Amen

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

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.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD. R**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. R**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. R

SECOND READING: 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, and 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 and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 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, unfit 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 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (vss. 1-2) ELW #367

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

***Gospel Acclamation** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (vss. 3-4) ELW #367

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

HYMN

Christ Is Risen, Alleluia

ELW #364

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. We pray especially for: Roger, Roger, Harold, Kermit, Woody, Larry, Leland, Tom, Dean, Shirley, Marianne, Andrea, Mary and all others on our hearts and minds this day.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.

Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.

OFFERTORY

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

vs. 1 #362

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

HYMN

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Assisting in Worship

Lector: Larry Lahs Sr.
Coffee: Beth Spande & Audrey Johannsen
Ushers: Mike & Kim Luhring

Thank you to Bev Lombardi for the beautiful music this morning.

Flowers near the altar are given by Jim & Mary Gulbrandson

Plants Given for Easter

Given by Jim & Mary Gulbrandson in honor of Laurence & Ella Rita Kohn.

*Given in memory of Howard & Alice Gulbrandson,
Gary Gulbrandson, Vicki & Danny Gulbrandson, Brooke Gulbrandson &
Justin Kohn.*

Given in memory of Nancy Lahs by Les & Lois Anderson.

*Given in memory of Lloyd & Marion Shaunce & Elmer DePoppe by
Kathy DePoppe.*

Given in memory of Wayne Dilling by Leland & Sharon Dilling and family.

Given in memory of William & Esther Lahs by Larry & Mary Lahs.

Given in memory of Robert & Laurel Herdina by Larry & Mary Lahs.

Given in thanks to Shari Budach by Pat Gjersvik.

Given in honor of my daughters & their families by Audrey Johannsen.

Given in memory of Don, Joel and Jay Johnsrud by Eva Johnsrud & family.

Given in memory of Richard Manges by Barb Scheib & James Manges.

*Given in honor of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of
Roger C. and Cynthia D. Nelson.*

Given in memory of Roger C. Nelson by Cynthia D. Nelson.

Given in memory of Mark Brech by Pat Mangskau.

Given in memory of Dale Mangskau by Pat Mangskau.

Given in memory of loved ones & family by Shirley Noaeill.

Given in memory of Dick Paul by Kathy Paul.

Given in honor of loved ones by Beth Spande.

Given in memory of loved ones by Gene & Sharon Weckwerth.

Given in memory of Ron Woodside by Jon & Kathy Woodside.

*Thank you for sharing your plants with us for our Easter morning worship.
Please take your plants home with you following the service.*