

*Sunday, April 12, 2020*

*Salem@Home*

*Thank you for joining us as we gather together as the family of God. Please center your heart and mind on worship. Imagine you are sitting in your pew. Your friends are across the aisle. While we may not physically be in the same place, we are all together today in worship.*

*Before you begin, please light a candle, place a bowl of water, flowers if available, and your Caring Cross in front of you.*



*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.*

# Gathering

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, the tomb is empty!

The stone has been rolled away!

**Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!**

For three days he lay in that cold and lonely cave.

**But God's love cannot be contained by anything,  
not even death!**

Thanks be to God, who gives us victory throughout our Risen Lord.

**Death has been swallowed up in victory!**

Where, O death, is your victory?

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed!**

Come, let us worship the Risen Christ!<sup>1</sup>

## RETURN TO OUR BAPTISM

We begin our worship with water because we use water to baptize, and this is where our life in God's promise begins. We ask God to be present with us here in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*(Remember your baptism by dipping your finger in your water bowl and making the sign of the cross on your forehead as you repeat the following words.)*

I am God's Child. I am loved. I am forgiven. I have a place in God's kingdom. Walk wet in this promise of life. **Amen**

## SONG

**Jesus Christ is Risen Today!**

## GREETING

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**This is the Feast**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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<sup>1</sup> written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on Liturgy & Hymns by Stephen M. Fearing. <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/>

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. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

# Word

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

### **FIRST READING ~ Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how 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. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not 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. <sup>42</sup>He 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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### **GOSPEL READING ~ Matthew 28:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**ELCA BOOK OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS:**

*(For those who have other people in your household, you may discuss these as a family. If you live alone, call a friend and discuss the questions with them!)*

- 1. What scares, confuses, or challenges me in this text? What do I have questions about?**
- 2. What delights me in this text? What is my favorite part, and why?**
- 3. What stories or memories does this text stir up in me? How does this story connect to my life?**
- 4. What is God up to in this text? What is God calling me to do or to be because of this message?**

**HYMN**

**Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!**

**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**

In our separate homes but gathered together in the Spirit, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders (*especially all those working on the front lines of the Coronavirus*). Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence (*especially Sue, Andrea, Duane, Wendy, and all those on our hearts and minds this day*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the creative and helpful service of worship leaders this day: musicians, ushers, greeters, worship assistants, preachers, readers, and all others who provide welcome and hospitality in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died (*especially all those who have died from COVID 19*). Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time. Checks may be mailed to the church. All mail is currently being held at the Albert Lea Post Office and will be picked up 1 – 2 times per week. Your offerings will remain secure.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

We bless you, Lord, and we praise you,  
for you have given us all we have,  
provided by the earth and prepared by human hands.

Help us to remember those who cannot eat because of poverty or sickness.

Let the brief hunger we feel this Lent make us hunger even more for justice.

May our time of worship strengthen us to do Your will.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

**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.**

# *Sending*

## **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in  
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

### **Thine is the Glory**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that  
which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the  
weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the  
Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

*Happy Easter!*

*We miss you!*

# Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M  
J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L  
R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K  
X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K  
R C R O S S H R E D P H M N E  
I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N  
S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S  
E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E  
N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L  
I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K  
N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T  
O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I  
D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H  
Z M E S B Z Z W E M L Y E D F  
E T G L M E G K B S L T R R U

APOSTLES  
CROWN  
LAMB  
PRAYER  
RESURRECTION  
SON

CHURCH  
FAITH  
MARY  
REDEMPTION  
RISEN  
SUNDAY

CROSS  
JESUS  
MIRACLE  
REJOICE  
SAVIOR  
TOMB

