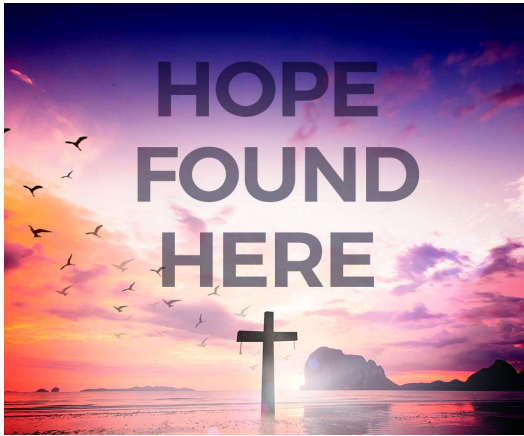


Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020



“CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!” Those are happy words, delightful words, promise-filled words. Yet those words contradict virtually all of human experience. All of our personal experience suggests that when someone has died, it is permanent. Life ends in the grave and there is no hope, our experience tells us. In our world things seem to continually go from bad to worse.

Yet when Jesus was laid in the tomb on Good Friday, His real death was changed to real life by His resurrection early on Easter morning. His resurrection gives us hope – hope for today, for tomorrow, and for an eternity with Him in heaven. Only Jesus can give real, solid, lasting hope. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Dear Jesus, fill my heart with joy on this Easter. Let my praise for You be beautiful, joyous, and from my heart as I celebrate Your resurrection from the dead. Give to me and the people of this land hope, knowing the certainty of resurrection and life eternal. Amen.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

EASTER WELCOME

- 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!**

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INVOCATION (Spoken Responsively)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (SPOKEN RESPONSIVELY)

P: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

P: Christ lives among us, and brings hope and joy to all who believe in Him.

C: We rejoice because we have been raised to new life with Christ.

P: This life is filled with joy as we put to death the desires which contradict God's will and become new persons in Him.

C: Christ is risen! He is alive in us today as we praise His name and follow Him in resurrection living.

EASTER PRAYER (SPOKEN RESPONSIVELY)

P: Jesus, with sorrowful, repentant hearts we watched the soldiers nail You to the cross on Friday.

We heard You speak from the cross words of love and forgiveness that You spoke from the cross.

We watched as they carried Your limp body into the tomb.

C: Friday we cried. Today we rejoice! You have turned our tears of sorrow into tears of joy!

P: What a miracle to watch You turn a tree of death into a tree of life.

C: Your tomb is empty, but Your promises are not!

P: You rose in the midst of our mourning and gave us fullness of life. You have changed our lives! We give You our eternal praise as the Son rose in the morning to disperse our gloom, fear, and anxieties. You have replaced them with peace, as only You can give.

C: For victories large and small, we give You thanks!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Director of Christian Education, Kendis Bender

✘ **WORD** ✘

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 25:6-9

Death itself shall die.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

R This is the Word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

Since Christ is risen, we have HOPE!

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to

be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

THE EASTER GOSPEL

LUKE 24:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

P: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord!

ANTHEM

"Love Crucified, Arose" by Michael Card

STATEMENT OF OUR FAITH IN OUR RISEN LORD spoken in unison

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

He did this so that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

(Dr. Martin Luther's explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed,
in *Luther's Small Catechism*.)

HYMN *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* LSB 461, vss 1,2,3,5,7

**1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.**

**2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.**

**3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;**

**He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.**

**5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.**

**7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.**

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Hope Easter video

SERMON *"EASTER HOPE ... WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST!"*

CONFESSING OUR SINFULNESS (SPOKEN BY ALL)

C: God of Good Friday, and God of Easter, we need the promise of new life and the hope of conquered death. By our selfish words, actions, and thoughts, we have ruined our relationship with You and our relationships with one another. We are powerless to conquer the troubles and illnesses that confront us. And we are helpless to control the evil lurking within us. Save us from despair. Give us Hope through Jesus our risen Savior, and bring peace to our troubled hearts. Amen.

ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS

P: Today brings the best news of all ... Jesus Lives! Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin and the sin of the whole world. He was placed in a borrowed tomb and on the third day, came back to life to defeat death for all time, and offer to you this new life as your very own. It is my joy to declare with confidence: as you trust in Him your sin is forgiven because Jesus lives! You no longer need to fear death as you look forward to living for all eternity with Him. He is alive and with you now, to bring His peace to your troubled heart.

C: We have been forgiven! We have new life in Christ!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG *"In Christ Alone"* ccli 3350395

LITANY OF HOPE (SPOKEN RESPONSIVELY)

P: As the fear that filled the minds of Christ's disciples was transformed to hope through His resurrection,

C: May the power of His Spirit sustain us from within so that we may be able to face the future unafraid.

P: As the discouragement that filled the hearts of the early believers was changed to hope through His reappearance,

C: May the reminder of His resurrection from the grave strengthen our faith in Him, and cause us to follow Him more closely.

P: As the sorrow that came to Christ's followers, gave way to new hope as He triumphed over the grave,

C: May we never forget that His spiritual presence will guide us as we pass from life, through death, to eternal life.

P: As the clouds of gloom of that first Easter morn moved away to reveal the brightness of the dawn of a new day of hope,

C: May this Easter day bring new hope to us as we permit the light of His spiritual presence to shine into our hearts.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Let all creatures on earth shout with joy:

C: Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN *"Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds"* LSB 465, vss. 1,3,4

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds

In praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;

Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through Your triumph;

Grant grace sufficient for life's day

That by our lives we truly say:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Adoring praises now we bring

And with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"

Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most holy God,

All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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POSTLUDE SONG *“Living Hope”* ccli #7106807

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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