



WELCOME IN THE NAME OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN JESUS CHRIST!

*Sunday, April 19th, 2020, Second
Sunday of Easter*

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Prelude

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

From Handel's "Messiah"

Entrance Hymn

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

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See link on website for video.

- 1 That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!
- 2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,
with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise
the tribute of our grateful praise.
- 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all
in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.
- 4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise,
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

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

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SERMON FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Tanya Cartwright

See video link on website.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

See video link on website.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

See video link on website.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

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See link on website for video.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 1 O sons and daughters, let us sing
with heav'nly hosts to Christ our king:
today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia!
- 4 That night the apostles met in fear;
among them came their master dear,
and said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia!
- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
that they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!
- 6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless, but believing be."
Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those beyond our walls. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our common humanity. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open our lives in this time of isolation with your forgiveness, life, and hope. Protect all who care for people infected by the coronavirus, and those who ensure that we might have the necessities of life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without homes, family or friends, that we might bring a sense of community to them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, or illness, especially all who we now raise in prayer before you.... Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open the way of patience for parents, and learning for children and youth, as they adjust to new ways of education through online schooling. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open the ways of love, O God, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, advocates for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith. Free us from the fear of death, that we may embrace the peace you have promised. 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

Call, text, or email a friend to pass the peace.

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

OFFERING

If you are able please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972.

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

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See link on website for video.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst;
Jesus their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
- 3 The three sad days have quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!
- 4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;
the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,
from death's sting free your servants too,
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909.

Thank you to Augsburg-Fortress, OneLicense, and CCLI who have opened their library of copyrighted music for use during the Coronavirus pandemic.



An Easter Message from Bishop Zeiser

To the Congregations and Rostered Ministers
of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod:

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Easter is the high mark in the church's worship life. It brings focus to our joy over the mercy of God's relentless commitment to draw us close and to the unconditional nature of God's love for us, even as we are prone to stray. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus bears witness to God's intention to offer life to all creation weighed down by brokenness and death.

Our observance of Easter 2020 is unlike past Easter observances. There are those who have observed Easter with a diminished joy because of sadness, mourning, or pain inflicted upon them, but it is rare that all have been simultaneously faced with dimensions of anxiety and fear in the way now caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Chances are, the despair of Mary Magdalene upon discovering Jesus' empty tomb, and the distress of the disciples upon hearing this news from Mary, are more real to us right now. Eventual appearances of Jesus, first to Mary Magdalene upon returning to the tomb, and later to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, meant a delayed response of joy, but a resounding joy, nonetheless.

Perhaps your 2020 Easter joy will seem delayed, despite the best efforts of congregation leaders to bring as many as possible together to lift up again the "Alleluia" that signifies our gratitude, our confidence, and our intention to share the news that Jesus is risen. But the certainty that God acted, continues to act, and will act to eternity to bring the light of life into the darkness of any sin and dying we can imagine was revealed by the empty tomb swept of its power and claimed for all of us by Mary Magdalene in the early light of that first day of the week after Jesus' death.

Mary Magdalene's gritty determination to minister to her Jesus in this church's most precious component of John's account on Easter 2020. As Jesus responded to Mary's searching determination and desperate pleas, Jesus hears us too and gives us reasons to proclaim with Mary Magdalene again and again and again: "I have seen the Lord."