



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

*Sunday, April 12th,
2020, EASTER Sunday*

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is raised, 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.

Prelude

The Strife Is O’er

Michael Helman

Entrance Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

365

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

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

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.

SERMON FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Tanya Cartwright

See video link on website.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place

where he lay. ⁷Then 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." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

See video link on website.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* # 385

- 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;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
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 © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient & Modern, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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, as the presiding minister begins.
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.
Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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.*

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. 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 and disease; 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 those sick with coronavirus, their medical care-givers, and their families and friends. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you... 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.

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.

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

Thine Is the Glory

376

- 1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

- 2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

- 3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

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."