

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday**

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace

Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson

GATHERING

PRELUDE: “The Strife Is O’er” Fred Bornhoeft

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Christ is Risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

CALL TO WORSHIP /INVOCATION

P: Rejoice with the heavens! Dance with the stars! Leap with all creation! Praise and bless the Lord our God, for Christ, who died our death has triumphed and won for us eternal life!

Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

P: On this blessed Easter morning we worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

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!

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!

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; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4; tr. Lyra Davidica, London, 1708, sts. 1-3. Public Domain.

EASTER CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us pray:

C: **Forgive us Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life. Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross. Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from living anew. Amen.**

P: Our almighty God has mercy on you. Jesus Christ was given to die for you. For his sake God forgives you all your sins and calls you into the new and abundant life of the risen Christ.

C: **Amen.**

P: Lord, open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ.

C: **Open our hearts to the wonder of the Cross.**

P: Open our hands to the service of your kingdom where you have placed us.

C: **May your name be glorified through our lives. Amen.**

Adapted from faithandworship.com

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Easter Carol” Quartet

WORD

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Phil Nelson

Now 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, through 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. For 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, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But 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. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she

did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord,
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "A Never-gonna-be-the-same Moment" *Pastor Scott Hackler*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!"

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" / All on earth with angels say; / raise your joys and triumphs high; / sing, O heav'ns; and earth, reply.

Love's redeeming work is done, / fought the fight, the battle won; / Lo! The sun's eclipse is o'er. / Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Lives again our glorious king! / Where, O death, is now your sting? / Once he died our souls to save; / where your victory, O grave?

King of glory, soul of bliss, / everlasting life is this: / thee to know, thy pow'r to prove, / thus to sing, and thus to love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Public Domain.

NICENE CREED

C: 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 – (Response: "Hear our prayer")

MEAL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING and WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying; Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray,

God of resurrection joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! / He is now the Living One; / from the gloomy halls of death / Christ, the conqueror, has gone, / bright forerunner to the skies / of his people, yet to rise.

Jesus lives! Why do you weep? / Why that sad and mournful sigh? / He who died our brother here / lives our brother still on high, / lives forever to bestow / blessings on his church below.

Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, / life eternal waits for you; / joined to him, your living head, / where he is, you shall be too; / with the Lord, at his right hand, / as a victor you shall stand.

Jesus lives! Let all rejoice. / Praise him, ransomed of the earth. / Praise him in a nobler song, / cherubim of heav'nly birth. / Praise the victor king, whose sway / sin and death and hell obey.

Hallelujah! Angels, sing! / Join with us in hymns of praise. / Let your chorus swell the strain / which our feeblers voices raise: / Glory to our God above / and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt. Public Domain.

SENDING INSTRUCTIONS AND DISMISSAL

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: "Glorious Morning" Fred Bornhoeft

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