

Worship Service for Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

GATHERING & EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP

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

P: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen Indeed!

P: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: We praise Him who gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

P: Do not be afraid. Jesus has conquered death!

C: He called us from our darkness into the light of this new day; so we can proclaim with great confidence that God's love rules.

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (ELW 365)

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please stand.*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to

appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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.

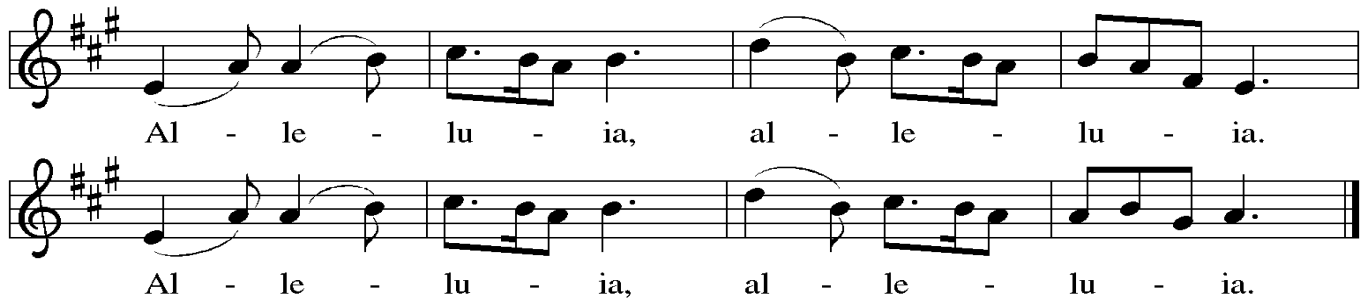
R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

KIDS TIME

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

P: The holy gospel according to Mark. **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Because He Lives* ELW 364

Because He Lives

1. God sent his Son, they called him Je - sus;
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by,
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er;

he came to love, heal, and for - give;
 and feel the pride and joy he* gives;
 I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain;

he lived and died to buy my par - don,
 but great - er still the calm as - sur - ance,
 and then as death gives way to vic - tory,

an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.
 this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.
 I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he reigns.

Refrain

Be-cause he lives, I can face to - mor - row;

be-cause he lives, all fear is gone;

be-cause I know he holds the fu - ture,

and life is worth the liv-ing just be-cause he lives.

THE CREED *Please stand.*

P: Let us profess our faith with the words of the 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

R: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Each Petition Ends: God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we thank you for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from in Your holy way Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we take this time to pray for those on our hearts as we speak aloud a prayer for them...*(wait for responses)*. Send your Spirit so they know you are with them. As we join you at your Easter table, fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C: Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **C: Amen.**

COMMUNION DIALOGUE *Please stand*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION SONG

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

P: Gracious God, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, and homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

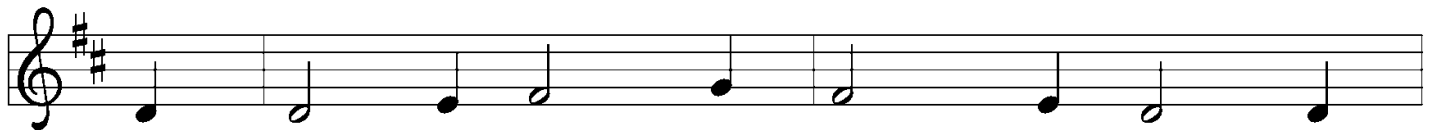
BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

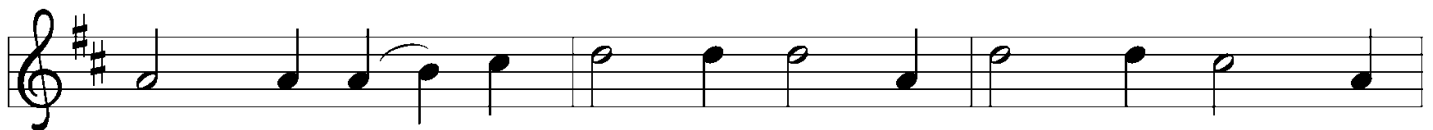
P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (ELW 384)
V. 1, 2, 4

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

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

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

All: American Lutheran Church is called to:

...Share God's love;

...Reflect Christ's compassion and

...Serve our community