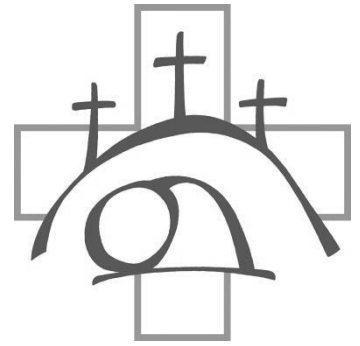


The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon



The Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:1-2 and Psalm 118:22-24

P: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

The first Easter began with hearts in deep mourning as a small group of women walked to the tomb of Jesus for their final opportunity to prepare His body for the sleep of death. His burial on Friday had been done in haste as the Passover Sabbath was quickly approaching. Now they would have the time for proper preparation of their beloved Master's body. But the solemn mood of that first Easter was broken by the fulfillment of God's promise of the resurrection of His Beloved Son, for as the Psalmist promised,

P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

C: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: This is the day that the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Easter Gospel

Mark 16:1-6; Acts 2:22-24

P: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another,

Women: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

P: And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back — it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them,

Men: "Do not be alarmed.

You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified.

He has risen; He is not here.

See the place where they laid Him."

P: "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know — this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death,

C: because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

Δ Hymn #457

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today!"

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Jesus Christ is risen 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!

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!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heav'nly hosts, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!

The Easter Dialog

adapted from Revelation 1 & 7 NIV

P: Grace and peace to you from the One Who is, and
the One Who was, and the One Who will be
From the sevenfold Spirit before His throne;
And from Jesus Christ – He is the Faithful Witness,
the First of the dead to live again and the Ruler over the kings of the earth.

**C: To Him Who loves us
and by His blood has freed us from our sins,
and has made us a kingdom,
priests to God and His Father
— to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The uncountable multitude of nations standing before the throne of the Lamb cry out with a loud voice:

C: "Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

P: And all the angels standing around the throne worship Him saying:

C: "Amen!

Praise

and glory

and wisdom

and thanks

and honor

and power

and strength

be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Easter Collect

P: Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #466 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!"

- 1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom. **REFRAIN**
REFRAIN Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!
- 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo;
And in its conquest His might did show. **REFRAIN**
- 3 The angel said to them, "Do not fear!
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
Only the grave cloths are lying there." **REFRAIN**
- 4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done;
Even the battle with sin is won." **REFRAIN**
- 5 Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. **REFRAIN**

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Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Today in triumph Christ arose
 And conquered all His hellish foes. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Great splendor marks His victory, Sing praise to God eternally!

REFRAIN: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Now hell has lost its pow'r and might;
 Our Lord puts all its hosts to flight. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 He brings the end of all our woe; He routs our foes and lays them low. **REFRAIN**

Though Satan rage, his pow'r is gone;
 His thund'ring roar can harm us none. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Our strong Defender hurls him down But wins for us a heav'nly crown. **REFRAIN**

To God the Lord, on highest throne,
 To Christ, the Father's own dear Son, Alleluia! Alleluia!
 To God the Holy Spirit be All praise and thanks eternally! **REFRAIN**

The Message

Offering

Song during the Offering *"Risen Today"* sung by Sarah Gaulke

The Apostles' Creed

P: ..."don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection." (Romans 6:3-5) Since God has made us His children through our baptism into Christ, with trust and hope, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen**

The Litany of the Resurrection

P: O Lord, **C: have mercy.**

P: O Christ, **C: have mercy.**

P: O Lord, **C: have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **C: hear us.**

P: Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world;
Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification;
Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

C: have mercy on us.

P: Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light;
Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women;
Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the
Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe;
Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish;
Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to
Paul on the Damascus road;

Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

C: have mercy on us.

P: By Your glorious resurrection from the dead, **C: good Lord, deliver us.**

P: By Your victory over sin and death, **C: good Lord, deliver us.**

P: By the majesty of Your risen body, **C: good Lord, deliver us.**

P: We poor sinners implore You **C: to hear us, Lord Jesus.**

P: That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness;
That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by
You;

That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together
with all the saints,

C: grant us, good Lord.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Lord, **C: have mercy.**

P: O Christ, **C: have mercy.**

P: O Lord, **C: have mercy. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

P: Taught by our Lord Jesus, and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

All: 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.

The Benediction from Psalm 118 and Hebrews 13

P: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

C: the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: THIS is the day the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

P: May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him,

C: through Jesus Christ,
to Whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

Pastor: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Closing Hymn #463 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Text: Public Domain

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

God so loved the world . . .

Here at BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH we believe, teach, and confess that every man, woman, and child has missed the mark established by God. This is what the Bible calls "sin." Listen to the clear Words of God:

***"There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands,
no one who seeks God.***

***All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."*** Romans 3:10-12

Did you know that God judges us not just by our visible actions, but also by our words and thoughts? With such a judgment, there is no one who can stand before God and expect to receive a reward.

But, thankfully, God had other plans for you and me. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life that we were unable to live, so that we could receive the reward of everlasting life. We gave our sins to Jesus and He gave us His perfection and life — what a great trade!

***"I (Jesus) give them eternal life, and they shall
never perish;
no one can snatch them out of My hand"*** John 10:28

The invitation is clear:

***"I (Jesus) am the gate;
whoever enters through Me will be saved."*** John 10:9

