

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

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Pianist: Mark Breeden

Choir Director: Kristen Breeden



April 1st, 2018



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 118 ✠
(Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible)

Opening Hymn: 457 Jesus Christ is Risen Today (please stand for the last verse)

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P Alleluia, Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

P We celebrate this Resurrection day in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Upon the hill the cross stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the empty tomb!

C **Christ is risen, Alleluia!**

P New life is awakened! Our own resurrection is assured!

God has given a living hope—an eternal hope—to a dying world!

C **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! Amen!**

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P O Lord, prepare us for worship as we confess our sins.

C **Dear Heavenly Father, we have come together to stand in Your presence, to hear Your Word, and to worship You by celebrating the resurrection of Your Son.**

P O holy and righteous God, You alone can make us clean. Your mercies never end; they are new every morning. You have told us in Your Word, ***"We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).*** With Your command and promise in mind, therefore, we come to You to confess our sins.

C O holy and merciful Father, I am altogether sinful from birth.
 In countless ways I have sinned against You
 and do not deserve to be called Your child.
 But at Your gracious invitation I come to You,
 and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ and His suffering and death, I plead:
 Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! Jesus' resurrection assures us of this. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

480 He's Risen, He's Risen

LSB 480 v. 1, 4-5



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
 Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
 For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.
 With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

Confession of Faith: 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed (Luther's Catechism, Sydow p. 87)

☐ "I believe 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, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death,
and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true!"

Choir Song: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

**Sermon: *Powerful Words – Powerful Passion*
*"He is not here; for He is Risen, as He said!"***

Pastor Luke: During the season of Lent we have been looking at some of the "***Powerful Words***" from Jesus' ***Powerful Passion***. We've looked at powerful words which were spoken by Jesus Himself; words which were spoken by His followers; even words which were spoken by Jesus' enemies. This morning we come to the words of an angel. These words were spoken by an angel at Jesus' tomb on Easter Sunday morning and they are some of the most ***Powerful Words*** in all of history:

"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said!" (Matthew 28:6).

During our Easter service this morning we will be taking a look at each one of the phrases in this **powerful** sentence, and we will see from God's Word why these words are so **powerful** and important for us. The elders of our congregation and I will be reading again the account of the events on Easter Sunday morning as they are recorded for us in the four Gospels. (Our Easter service is printed in the bulletin and I invite you to please follow along as you—the congregation—will also be asked to read some of the passages from God's Word).

I. "He is not here" (The Tomb is Empty!)

(Pastor Luke & Paul Pelzl)

JESUS' RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

(A Compilation of some of the events of Jesus' Resurrection Day from the Four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

Pastor Luke: Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And now, as the first day of the week began to dawn, while it was still dark, they came to see the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.

Paul Pelzl: And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves,

WOMEN: "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

Paul Pelzl: But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, for it was very large.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them,

WOMEN: "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Paul Pelzl: The other women entered the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, one young man clothed in a long white robe, sitting on the right side. And the women were alarmed and afraid and bowed their faces to the earth. And the angel answered and said to the women,

MEN: "Do not be afraid or alarmed; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen, as He said. Behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

Paul Pelzl: And they remembered His words. And he said to them,

MEN: "But go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead; and indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Behold, I have told you."

Paul Pelzl: So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb with fear and great joy, for they trembled and were amazed; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And they ran to report it to His disciples.

Hymn: 477 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heav'n and Voices Raise*

THE VISIT OF PETER AND JOHN
(Scott Mueller & Chris Holt)

Scott Mueller: Peter therefore arose and went out, and the other disciple, and they ran to the tomb. So they both ran together; and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first; and he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Chris Holt: Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and the handkerchief, that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes, and Peter marveled to himself at what had happened.

JESUS' APPEARANCE TO MARY MAGDALENE

Scott Mueller: Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping; and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her,

Chris Holt: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

WOMEN: She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Scott Mueller: Now when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her,

Chris Holt: "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Scott Mueller: She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him,

WOMEN: "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Chris Holt: Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him,

WOMEN: "Rabboni," which is to say, "Teacher."

Chris Holt: Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Scott Mueller: Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and He had spoken these things to her. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

APPEARANCE TO THE OTHER WOMEN

Chris Holt: And as the other women went to tell the disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice." So they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Scott Mueller: And they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Hymn: "Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb"

Hymn 203 – TLH

***♪ Morning breaks upon the tomb; Jesus scatters all its gloom.
Day of triumph through the skies, See the glorious Savior rise.***

***You who are of death afraid, Triumph in the scattered shade.
Drive your anxious cares away; See the place where Jesus lay.***

***Christian, dry your flowing tears; Chase your unbelieving fears.
Look on his deserted grave; Doubt no more his pow'r to save.***

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II. He is Risen! (We too Will Rise!)

(Pastor Luke & Michael Slattengren)

Pastor Luke: Have you ever wondered why we make such a big deal about Easter Sunday? Why was Christ's resurrection so important? Well, there are a number of reasons, but two very important ones stand out:

First, as Paul says in Romans, Jesus' resurrection was the powerful proof that He is the Son of God, as He claimed to be.

Michael Slattengren: (Romans 1:3-4) "His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

Pastor Luke: Secondly, Jesus' resurrection also guarantees our own resurrection from our graves on the Last Day.

CONGREGATION: "Because I live, you will live also." (John 14:19b)

Pastor Luke: Christ's resurrection is, in fact, the cornerstone of our faith. If Jesus had NOT risen from the dead we would be worshipping a dead man, and we would have a dead faith. Our sins would still cling to our souls and would condemn us. This life in this fallen world with all its struggles and pains would be all we have. We would have no resurrection to look forward to at the end of our lives, no perfect paradise of heaven, and no eternal life with our Savior Jesus. But as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians,

Michael Slattengren: (1 Corinthians 15:17,20) "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!...But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

Pastor Luke: Jesus Himself promises us that we will rise to eternal life on the Last Day, just like He promised His friend Martha before He raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. He bases this promise on the fact of His own resurrection. Jesus promises all of us in John,

Michael Slattengren: (John 11:25-26) "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Pastor Luke: By God's grace He has worked faith in each one of us through His Word so that we can answer "Yes!" to Jesus' question. We can answer confidently, like Martha did in the very next verse: **She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is come into the world (John 11:27).**

Christ's resurrection guarantees us the ultimate victory! By God's gift of faith that victory is made yours and mine! Our sins cannot harm us, hell can no longer touch us, and death no longer scares us. Listen to the Apostle Paul's description of this victory from 1 Corinthians 15,

Michael Slattengren: (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 54-57)

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed..." "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Pastor Luke: What a gift! What a victory! What can we give to God in thanks for His great grace in His risen Son, our Savior Jesus? What else but all the praise of our hearts and lives?!

CONGREGATION: **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.** (1 Peter 1:3 NIV)

Hymn: 479 *Christ is Risen, Christ is Living*

III. "As He Said!" (Jesus Predicted His Resurrection)

(Pastor Luke & Nick Hasulak)

Pastor Luke: After His death on the cross Jesus' followers were extremely sad and afraid. But they shouldn't have been! They had forgotten Jesus' promises. He had told them very clearly a number of times that yes, He would suffer and die on the cross, but on the third day, Sunday, He would rise again. Listen again to what the angels said to the women at Jesus' empty tomb as Luke records it in His Gospel, **Then, as they [the women] were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they [the angels] said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'** " (Luke 24:5-7). Jesus had, in fact, predicted the very things the angels said. Listen to these words of Jesus from the Gospels of Mark and Matthew,

Nick Hasulak: (Mark 8:31-32a) And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly.

(Matthew 26:32) "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

Pastor Luke: Ironically, Jesus' enemies understood Jesus' promise to rise from the dead. Matthew tells us, **On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'** (Matthew 27:62-63).

Jesus' own disciples, however, didn't "get it." Even Peter, James, and John, the three disciples He took with Him up on the mountain when He showed them His radiant glory at His Transfiguration—even they didn't understand what Jesus meant when He promised He would rise from the dead. Mark tells us in his Gospel, **Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.** (Mark 9:9-10).

Jesus needed to open the hearts of His disciples to believe in His promises by giving them the irrefutable proof that their weak faith needed to see: Himself! Luke tells us in the book of Acts,

Nick Hasulak: (Acts 1:3) [Jesus] also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Pastor Luke: Jesus' resurrection was not a secret either. During His forty days on earth after His resurrection Jesus appeared to literally hundreds of people. The Apostle Paul lists these "witnesses" for us in 1 Corinthians 15,

Nick Hasulak: (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by [Peter], then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

Hymn: 465 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds!* (please stand for last verse)

IV. Jesus Makes Us His Witnesses Through His Word

(Pastor Luke & Wayne Bliss)

Pastor Luke: Well, how do we know that Jesus rose from the dead? I haven't seen Him, I'm guessing you haven't seen him either. How can we be sure Jesus is risen?

Because He has given us a greater witness of His resurrection that even our own two eyes! He has given us Himself through His Word!

Jesus needed to teach this truth to one of His disciples, Thomas, who had not seen Jesus on Easter Sunday and would not listen to the eyewitness report of the rest of the disciples. Listen again to the account of Jesus' appearance to Thomas as it is recorded in John 20:24-29:

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him,"

CONGREGATION: "We have seen the Lord."

Pastor Luke: So he said to them,

Wayne Bliss: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Pastor Luke: And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him,

Wayne Bliss: "My Lord and my God!"

Pastor Luke: Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Pastor Luke: We have not seen Jesus with our physical eyes, and yet, because we have "seen" Him through our eyes of faith we believe! We too have seen Jesus crucified and risen from the dead through the sure and certain accounts of the Holy Scriptures. God's Word has given us the proof that our doubting hearts need to hear. Because of this perfect Word of God we too can confidently say with Jesus' disciples,

**CONGREGATION: "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."
(Acts 2:32)**

Pastor Luke: "He is risen as He said!" We are eyewitnesses of His resurrection through His Word. One day we will all be eyewitnesses of our risen Savior with our very own eyes at our own resurrection on the Last Day. By faith we can say with Job,

Wayne Bliss: "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27).

Pastor Luke: Let's join in signing these words in hymn 461...

Hymn: 461 v. 1-2, 5-8 *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!*

(v. 1-2 All; v. 5 Women; v. 6 Men; v. 7-8 All)

Pastor Luke: The peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Easter Prayer / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Acknowledgments

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today: **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** – After Worship Service
Easter Brunch – (after Easter Egg Hunt) in Fellowship Hall

This Week: Wednesday – **Catechism Class (via Skype)** (Fossum) – **7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
4/8/18 **Worship – 10am**

Congregational Meeting – 11am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship w/ communion – 1pm
Bible Class – 2pm

April Elder & Usher: Paul Pelzl (Elder) & Brenton Horillo (Usher)



We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel message of our Risen Savior Jesus at our Easter worship service. We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry. If you would like more information about our congregation, please speak with Pastor Luke.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Brunch – Please join us for a children's Easter Egg Hunt (outside) and an Easter Brunch in the fellowship hall following our worship service.

Congregational Meeting (Mt. View) – Church Lighting Discussion - Next Sunday –

We are planning to have a congregational meeting after our worship service here in Mountain View **next Sunday at 11am (4/8)**. We will be discussing some church lighting ideas and options for our sanctuary. Please make plans to join us and give your input.

CLC News – Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Spokane, WA, has declined the call to Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI.