

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP
April 12, 2020 7:00 and 10:00 AM

PRELUDE MUSIC Judy Eckard

OPENING DIALOG

Pastor: People of God! On Friday, things didn't look so good. Not good at all. That was the day our Lord Jesus died on the cross.

Congregation: He said, "It is finished", and gave up his last breath.

P: A spear in his side,

C: brought forth water and blood. His death was confirmed.

P: They took down his body, wrapped it in linen and spices and buried it in a tomb. It was sealed with a stone with guard at the entrance.

C: Three days later some women arrived in tears to anoint his dead body with more spices.

P: A nice custom to pay respects.

C: A way to honor their dead friend.

P: To mourn again.

C: To say a final "Good Bye."

P: But in a moment of confusion, they saw the stone had been rolled away! The guards were afraid and shaking so hard they couldn't move. They were like dead men. This can't be anything good.

C: The tomb was empty! Who could have stolen the body of Jesus? What a terrible thing has happened!

P: But two men in dazzling white with an appearance like lightning, angels, had come with a message! One of them was sitting on the great stone he had rolled away. He asked,

C: Why do you seek the living among the dead?

P: He is not here!

C: He is risen, just as he said would happen!

P: We can hardly believe what we have heard. Can it be? YES! CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

C: HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!!!!

(Honk your horn! Shout out loud! Ring the bells for joy!!! Christ is Risen!)

HYMN OF PRAISE "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffered to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

MEN: But the pains which He endured.

WOMEN: Alleluia!

MEN: Our salvation have procured.

WOMEN: Alleluia!

MEN: Now above the sky He's King.

WOMEN: Alleluia!

MEN: Where the angels ever sing.

WOMEN: Alleluia!

**ALL: Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Amen.**
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INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: In The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: On this day God the Father raised His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from death. He thereby showed His acceptance of our Savior's sacrifice for our sins. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23) He takes the burden of our sins from us and offers us a clean slate, abolishing our sin and its guilt. Let us therefore freely confess our sins in the assurance that they will not come between us and our gracious God.

P: Most gracious heavenly Father,

C: We come to You burdened by the sins for which Your Son died. We are ashamed of our sinful thoughts, words and deeds. In all humility we ask for Your mercy. You have raised our Lord Jesus from death and promised us eternal life because of the faith Your Holy Spirit has worked in our hearts. For the sake of Your Son's innocent suffering and death and His glorious resurrection, forgive us, renew us and lead us to everlasting life.

P: I have Good News for you who have confessed your sins! God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and rise for you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority as if the Lord Jesus were standing before you and speaking these words: Your sins are forgiven!! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Believe and receive this gift of New Life!

C: Amen.

PSALM OF PRAISE Psalm 118 and Job 19

P: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever!

C: Let the congregation of God's people say it: His faithful love endures forever!

P: The Lord is my strength and my song! He has become my victory.

C: Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp (*parking lot*) of the godly. The strong right arm of the LORD has done glorious things!

P: The strong right arm of the LORD is raised in triumph. The strong right arm of the LORD has done glorious things!

C: I will not die, but will live to tell what the LORD has done for me!

P: I know that my Redeemer lives and he will stand upon the earth at last.

C: I will see him for myself! I will see him with my own eyes! I am overwhelmed at the thought. My Redeemer lives!!

HYMN "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

**I know that my redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives my ever living head.**

**He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.**

**He lives triumphant from the grave.
He lives eternally to save,**

**He lives all glorious in the sky,
He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives! A-men**
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you!

P: Let us pray: Hallelujah! You rose from the dead! You live! You reign, Lord over us, Jesus, the Christ of God! Come to us! Touch us! Love us! Guide us! Lead us! In Your death we died with You! In Your resurrection we live in You! In glory we will reign with You who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 31:1-6 *(God's promise to redeem His people)*

In that day," says the Lord, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people. This is what the Lord says: "Those who survive the coming destruction will find blessings even in the barren land, for I will give rest to the people of Israel." Long ago the Lord said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. I will rebuild you, my virgin Israel. You will again be happy and dance merrily with your tambourines. Again you will plant your vineyards on the mountains of Samaria and eat from your own gardens there. The day will come when watchmen will shout from the hill country of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord our God.'"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE Colossians 3:1-4 *(We have been raised with Christ!)*

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10 *(The crucified Savior is alive!)*

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

EASTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

That He was crucified for me and put to death to pay the wages of my sins and the sins of the whole world.

That on the third day He came forth from the tomb and was shown to be the mighty Son of God through His resurrection from the dead.

I believe that in Him is the resurrection and the life and that as He came forth from the grave, so shall I come forth from my grave on the last day, the great day of the Lord.

He will give unto me and all believers in Him eternal life. This is most certainly true!

HYMN OF THE DAY "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven."

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:

Sing to God a hymn of gladness,

Sing to God a hymn of praise;

He who on the cross a victim

For the world's salvation bled-

**He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled-
Jesus, Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;**

**Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
To the triune Majesty!**
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SERMON "Famous First Words" Matthew 28:1-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.**

All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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OFFERINGS will be received as you leave the parking lot!

Have a Joyous Resurrection Day!