

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

INTRODUCTION

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

PRELUDE

"This Is The Feast"

Charles Callahan

***GATHERING SONG**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

ELW 365

**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!**

**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 host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

***GREETING**

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

G **And also with you.**

***EASTER LITANY**

P *Why have you come?*

G **We have come to see the Lord.**

P *He is not here! He is risen!*

G **He is risen just as He said!**

P *Christ is risen!*

G **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P O God,

G you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

ANTHEM

"Jubilate Deo"

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:1-6

This passage makes clear that God's final word is always "Yes." Because God's love is everlasting, God always remains faithful. Ancient Israel is assured that it will be rebuilt and have plentiful crops. The people of God too will ultimately be reunited.

¹At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

²Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,

³the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,
and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.

⁵Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant,
and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:

"Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God."

Reflection

What is the situation of the people? (verse 2) The "title" of this section in the Lutheran Bible is "The Joyful Return of the Exiles." Have you ever felt like you were in exile? One of the comments I have heard many people say about our country is that they don't feel like they belong any more. What is such an exile like for you? Do you see anyone else who might not feel like they belong? What is God's message for such people in such a time? (verses 1 and 3) How is this God's message for us today? What is the promise to the exiles? (verses 4-6) What will be their response? (verses 4-5) How do we respond to God's unconditional promise of love and faithfulness?

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the
tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reflection

What does the psalmist call on us to do? (verses 1-2) Why? (verses 14-18) This psalm was probably sung by pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to the Temple. What is their intent? (verse 19) Who can enter through the "gate of the Lord"? (verse 20) How do we know that we are among the righteous? (verse 21) What is unexpected about God's love and invitation to enter the gate of the Lord? (verse 22) Is there anything different about this day "that the Lord has made [or has acted]"? Is there any day that the Lord has not acted in our behalf? How have you experienced God's help in a powerful way?

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives, since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reflection

Have you been raised with Christ? (If you're not sure, check out the Baptism Service on p. 227 of the hymnal. These or similar words were said when you were baptized!) Since you have been raised with Christ, what does that do to your way of life? (verses 1-2) Our baptism reminds us that we have indeed died to sin. What does it mean to you that your life is hidden with Christ in God? (verse 3) What does it mean to those around you? This might be a good question to ask other believers on this day of celebration of the Resurrection! Verse 4 implies that Christ is not always easy to see in our world. When will we know for certain that "Christ is our life"? What do you think it means that we will be revealed with Christ in glory? This reminds me of something that Jesus said in the Gospels: What is hidden will be revealed. Sometimes we become discouraged. What is the promise of this text?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**☩ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Give the Glory and the Honor to the Lord!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Give the Glory and the Honor to the Lord!**

***GOSPEL**

John 20:1-18

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

¹Early 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. ²So 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." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection

As you read this text, think about the people who go to the tomb. Why did Mary Magdalene go to the tomb? Why did Peter and "the other disciple" go? What were their reactions to what they saw? When did Mary recognize Jesus? (verse 16) Why do you think she didn't recognize him at first? What about hearing him call her by name helped her to see? What is the relationship among seeing and hearing and believing? What do you think it means that Jesus told Mary not to hold onto him? Why might she want to do that? What is the commission he gave her? (verse 17) What will happen next? The Greek word for apostle is the same as the verb "to send with a commission." Mary is the first apostle of the resurrection. To whom did she announce the resurrection? (verse 18) As you reflect on all of these readings, how do you understand your "commission" as a witness to the resurrection of Jesus? What difference does the resurrection of Jesus make in the way you live your life?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"God Wins"

Rev. Roger Lenander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Thine Is the Glory"

ELW 376

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

Refrain

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!**

**Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain***

**No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain***

***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!**

***PRAYER SONG "Jesus, Name Above All Names"**

**Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, living Word. (repeat)**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Unite all Christians in our shared calling to proclaim the gospel. Raise up women and men to serve as faithful leaders. Make us bold witnesses to the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. Renew your creation with seasonable weather and growth. Protect plants and animals from the damage of excessive heat or cold, drought or flooding, windstorm or hail. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Bring peace to communities torn apart by warfare. Guide all refugees to safety. Bolster the courage of those who put themselves in danger to preserve the lives of others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. Shelter the homeless. Protect those who suffer abuse or neglect. Befriend the lonely. Give peace to the dying, comfort the bereaved, and heal the sick. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, you are the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: hear our prayers and grant your healing for those who may be sick or in pain. *We especially pray for Verna, Dave, Trisha, Samantha, Bob, Sheylin, Terry, Stephanie, Dorothy, Linda, Scott, Alva.* We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Free us from fear, and renew us in faith. Bless the newly baptized, those who seek to know your love, and all who come to your holy table. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died and all who yearn for the fulfillment of your Easter promise of resurrection and life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"Up From the Grave He Arose"

**Low in the grave he lay,
Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord!**

Refrain

**Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

**Vainly they watch his bed,
Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus my Lord! *Refrain***

**Death cannot keep its prey,
Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord! *Refrain***

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Be known to us, O Lord,*

C **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

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.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

C **Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.*

*You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.*

*We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.*

*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 we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

☩ Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

☩ *Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.*

*To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.*

☩ Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**☩ 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**

℘ *The table of life is spread before you.
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.*

COMMUNION

***BLESSING**

℘ *The body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.*
☞ **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

℘ *Life-giving God,*
☞ **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to
conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to
nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus'
resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through
the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

℘ *May God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*
☞ **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

ELW 855

vv. 1,3,4, screen

**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of heaven,
enthroned in world's above,
crown him the King to whom is given
the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns
as thrones before him fall;
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For he is king of all.**

***DISMISSAL**

P *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

G **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P *You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.*

G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Emma Lou Diemer