

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: A Startling New Reality

Those who followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem had hopes and fears, but their experience was within what they expected. So, Isaiah's prophecy, which we shall hear again today, was one of those things that didn't seem to apply, for it was too much of a change to take seriously. And the news from the angel at the tomb went far beyond that! Life after death challenged every understanding so directly that the women were startled into fear-driven silence—at least for a time. That very day others would hear the news and soon many would see Jesus Himself, as Paul tells us in the Epistle. Today is a day to embark on a life based on the startling new reality that death is not the final word for anyone with faith in Christ. How then shall we live before we see Him ourselves?

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from Mark 16:6

And (the angel) said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here."

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class where we will review Jesus' resurrection from the dead. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: A new food pantry needs sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Please pick one up when you leave today!

READINGS FOR EASTER 2:

- Acts 4:32–35 (Believers use everything they have to help one another.)
- 1 John 1:1—2:2 (God is light; He forgives our sins.)
- John 20:19–31 (Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom" - Hymn 481
- "O Sons and Daughters of the King" - Hymn 470
- "This Joyful Eastertide" - Hymn 482



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Sunday

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

Church Announcements

Moment of Prayer

Opening Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” - Hymn 457

**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 ye heavenly hosts Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Alleluia!**

Text: Latin, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; Charles Wesley, 1707–88, st. 4; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, sts. 1–3, alt.

Tune: *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Invocation

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!**

Confession and Absolution - page 184

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,
C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Kyrie - page 186

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” - Hymn 465

**Now all the vault of heav'n resounds In praise of love that still abounds
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Eternal is the gift He brings Therefore our heart with rapture sings
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

**Now still He comes to give us life And by His presence stills all strife
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph
Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord To Spirit blest, most holy God
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623; setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House

Music: Public domain

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

E: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

E: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Lord of Life, Creator of all things, by Your mighty power You raised Your Son, our Savior, to life from death. We cannot understand this startling reversal, but pray that You keep us ever mindful of this good news so that we may live each day in triumphant gladness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

(When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for Easter Sunday is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 25:

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.
And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,

the veil that is spread over all nations.
He 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.
It 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.”
This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

(Paul, persecutor of Christians, is one of many people who saw Jesus alive after death. The news is of primary importance for people of faith.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st Corinthians, Chapter 15:

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

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, 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 at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 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, unworthy 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 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. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

This is the word of the Lord.


C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1–8

(The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 28th Chapter:

 **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 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, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 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, "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. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" - Hymn 633

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King
Who has washed in the tide Flowing from His pierced side
Alleluia!**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives his sacred blood for wine
Gives His body for the feast Christ the victim, Christ the priest
Alleluia!**

**Where the paschal blood is poured Deaths dread angels sheathes the sword
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe
Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed Paschal victim, paschal bread
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above
Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie
You have conquered in the fight You have brought us life and light
Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall Now no more the grave enthrall
You have opened paradise And Your saints in You shall rise
Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free Newborn souls in You to be**

Alleluia!

**Father, who the crown shall give Savior, by whose death we live
Spirit, guide through all our days Three in One, You name we praise
Alleluia!**

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.

Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566; setting: Jan O. Bender, 1909–94

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Sermon

“Miraculous Joy” - Mark 16:2

Hymn

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” - Hymn 466

**Christ has arisen, alleluia
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb
Even from death, dispelling its gloom
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!**

**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
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!**

**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.”
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!**

**“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.”
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!**

**Christ has arisen; He set us free
Alleluia, to Him praises be
Jesus is living! Let us all sing
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King
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!**

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010

Music: Tanzanian

Text: © 1977 Howard S. Olson

Music: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

Preface - page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is indeed good, right, and salutary that we should in every time and place thank and praise You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But today we praise You

especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He took our sins to the cross and yet arose, destroying death in the process and opening eternal life to us. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

 **Sanctus** - page 195

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

A: 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 Words of Our Lord - spoken, page 197

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \mp body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \mp blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini - page 197

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: Amen.**

 **Agnus Dei** - page 198

**A: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world**

Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Dismissal

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C: **Amen.**

 **Nunc Dimittis** - page 198-199

A: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Thanksgiving - page 200

E: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

E: We give thanks, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You have refreshed us through this gift of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Strengthen us by this Sacrament to announce this gracious Good News so that many may join us at the Lamb's high feast; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus - page 202

E: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

E: Bless we the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

 C: **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia” - Hymn 463

**Christ the Lord is rise’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!**

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.

Tune: Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821; setting: John Roberts, 1822–77

Text and music: Public domain