

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Video recordings of our weekly services can be viewed on our You Tube channel, *Christ Lutheran Forest Hills Pa*. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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Easter Sunrise

April 9, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Easter dawn is here as the sun rises to signal the beginning of this new day. On the first Easter, the real dawning happened inside Mary, Peter, and John, and eventually all the disciples, as they realized what had happened: Jesus had conquered death and returned to resurrected life, unbound by time and space. Moreover, as Job had prophesied and Paul confidently wrote, one day we shall see God with our own eyes as He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our worship today is an opportunity to let the Son rise to break through the mists of our minds and the heaviness of our hearts. By the grace of God, we rejoice with the psalmist, "The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us" (Psalm 118:27).

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on Entering Church: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord.
Amen.

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Darcy Stanley

WELCOME

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (†) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Christ is Risen!

C: **Christ is Risen Indeed. Hallelujah!**

OPENING HYMN

Hymnal p. 469

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"

**Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply.**

**Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.**

**Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save;**

**Where thy victory, O grave?
Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!**

P: Christ is Risen!

C: **Christ is Risen Indeed. Hallelujah!**

COLLECT PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. John, chapter twenty.

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

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

So 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."

So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.

Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.

And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.

They 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."

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for 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.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" – and that He had said these things to her.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED¹

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.

HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Hymn p. 461 sts. 1,2,8

**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 triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule His Church in love.
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

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Risen and eternal Lord, we come before Your Father this day rejoicing in Your resurrection and praying in confidence for His mercy upon us and all people as they have need.

Blessed Lord, You raised up Jesus Christ from death to show forth the fulfillment of Your promise and to assure us that our sins are forgiven and eternal life has been prepared for us and all believers. Keep us in this holy joy, that in all the days of our trials and troubles we may remember His triumph and be comforted in all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, You raised up Christ as Lord of life and of death. Deliver the sick from their illness, give relief to all who suffer, bestow comfort to the grieving and keep the dying in perfect peace, as we especially pray for Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, You give to us this Holy Sacrament as the remembrance of our Lord in His suffering and the foretaste of His feast to come. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and to drink His blood, that we may receive from this Holy Communion every gift and blessing He imparts, especially our unity of faith and life as God's people in this place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, You have brought us to this new day of hope and joy through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Hinder the work of all enemies of Your Gospel so that this Easter message may

be proclaimed to all people in every place, and bring many to faith through the preaching of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, You bid us come to You with confidence that You will hear and answer the prayers of Your people who pray through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful to us and to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION²

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 160

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
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 in the highest.**

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our earthly travels that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Good Christian Friends

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;

Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;

Let all the world rejoice and say:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory

**That love that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Cyril A. Alington; Public Domain

Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

Terry Osman

¹Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

²*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.*

³If you are not a communing member of Christ Lutheran, you must speak with the pastor before receiving communion. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.