

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
Easter, March 31, 2024

Thought: Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. **ALLELUIA!**

Theme Verse: *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4*

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome – Blessed Easter!

Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing the Easter Peace

P: May the joy of Easter bring peace in your heart as you share with one another. Peace be with you!

C: And also with you.

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The apostle Paul writes, "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

C: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

L: We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 imperishable, and we shall be changed.

C: For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

L: When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

C: 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

L The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

C: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15)

L: So, we proclaim: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Hymn – "Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW #855

<https://youtu.be/6vWRXvWZPUQ>

by St. David's Praise Choir

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Easter Hymn of Praise – “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” ELW #365

<https://youtu.be/PcTP3Pj6Smo>

by North Stoneham Parish

Prayer of the Day

L: Jesus our Savior, risen Lord, we rejoice in the victory over sin, death and Satan that you have won for us through your death and resurrection.

C: In baptism, we were buried with you and raised to walk in newness of life. We look forward with joy to your return on the Last Day when we will be raised in glory as you were raised.

L: Until that great day, lead us to grow in faith through the study of your Word and to reflect the light of your love to the people we meet each day.

C: Make us bold witnesses for you so that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know and worship you as Lord. Mighty, conquering Savior, hear our prayer and accept our praise. Amen.

Hymn of Joy – “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

ELW #369 vss.1&4

Preparing for the Word

L: God shows no partiality, none at all.

C: God’s good news is for all times, all places, all creatures, all creation.

L: God’s good news is for our friends, our family, our enemies, and ourselves.

C: God’s good news is for those who are safe, those who are in danger, those who are free and those in prisons.

L: God’s good news heals what has been, reconciles what is, and gives birth for what is to come.

C: God shows no partiality, none at all.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 25:6-9

God will wipe the tears from their eyes. Most importantly, God will destroy death itself.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

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

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

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

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

¹⁵**Shouts 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!"

¹⁷**I 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.

¹⁹**Open 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.”

²¹**I 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.

²³**By 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.

Epistle reading – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

P: Alleluia!

C: Let us sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously; our strength and our might, who has become our salvation,. Alleluia! (Exodus 15:1-2)

Holy Gospel – Mark 16:1-8

<https://youtu.be/wYpgilelAyQ?feature=shared>

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you O Lord.**

An Angel and stone rolled away and yet there is fear and amazement.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/u77FAtsvH3E?feature=shared>

Easter Message – "We Believe the Good News, but We Still Live in a 'Not Yet' World"

<https://youtu.be/pA7SOlcgznI?feature=shared>

Hymn of Easter – "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW #379

<https://youtu.be/g-5Bi2jM40E>

by Laura Wright

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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

L: Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Loving God, we pray for this community of faith (*name/s may be spoken here*) and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death (*especially John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith*). Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Music – “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

ELW #619 Vss. 1-4

Offertory Prayer

L: Heavenly Father, you have opened earth’s good pleasures to us,

C: even as you have opened heaven’s eternal gates.

L: So we open our hearts to you,

C: even as we offer you lives of praise. Alleluia!

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the praise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: Lord Jesus Christ, this meal proclaims your death.

C: Grant us the desire to proclaim your LIFE.

L: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Thine Is the Glory” ELW #376

<https://youtu.be/pmetr66LrWQ>

by First-Plymouth Church

Dismissal

L: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Go in Easter Joy serving the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Jill Rimington