

Sunday, April 4, 2021  
Easter Sunday

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

***“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”***

Sharon Gray, organist

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**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!**

**WELCOMING 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!**

*ELW Song #365 | Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708,  
alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
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## **GREETING**

**P** *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

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

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

**C** **And also with you.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

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

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, 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!

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### *“Because He Lives”*

Dave Newman, tenor

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**FIRST READING** – Misty Coyle, reading

**Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, so that God’s forgiveness in Jesus’ name would reach out to all people.*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows not partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who is God-fearing and does what is right is acceptable to God. <sup>36</sup>“You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>“Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

## **Reflection**

*This text is from Peter's sermon when he responded to God's call to baptize Cornelius and his household. Previously, who had Peter thought the Gospel was for? (see Acts 10:9-23) Who is Cornelius? (see Acts 10:22) What has Peter learned from his encounter with Cornelius about who the Gospel is for? (verses 34-36) Where did Jesus' ministry begin? (verse 37-38) What does Peter proclaim about Jesus? (verses 39-41) What was Peter's command from God? (verse 42) What was the message he was commanded to proclaim? (verse 43) Why is this text significant for us today? Are there people you think should not belong in our church? What would Peter have to say about that?*

## **PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 – led by David Bezona**

- <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup>Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."
- <sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!
- <sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- <sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
- <sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."
- <sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup>By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **Reflection**

*Why does the psalmist exhort us to give thanks to God? (verse 1) Who does the psalmist say should declare this? (verse 2) Who is God to the psalmist? (verse 14) Why is that true? (verse 15) In some ways, this psalm seems particularly appropriate this year. What does the psalmist proclaim of the Lord? (verses 16-17) Do you feel that God has punished us? (verse 18) The psalmist apparently felt that way. For what is the psalmist thankful? Why would the psalmist*

want to enter the gates of righteousness? (verse 19) As we gather for the first time in many months in our church (and for some of us, for over a year), why does this seem a particularly appropriate psalm? (verses 20-21) Even if we could not be in our building, what is our faith founded on? (verses 22-23) Today is Easter! We are celebrating the resurrection, probably in a way we've never celebrated it before. What does it mean to you that "This is the day that the Lord has made"? What are you celebrating this Easter?

**SECOND READING** – Debra Hohly, reading

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now 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, <sup>2</sup>through 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.

<sup>3</sup>For 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, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But 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. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

### **Reflection**

*What does Paul want to remind the Christians in Corinth about? (verses 1-2) Why does he want them to remember? Is it important to him? to them? to us? Paul says he "handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received." Is Paul making this story up? What is he "handing on" to them (and to us)? (verse 4) Who were the witnesses to this? (verses 5-7) Was Paul a witness? (verse 8) In what way was Paul a witness to the resurrection of Jesus? (See Acts 9:1-19) Why does he describe himself as "unfit to be called an apostle"? And yet, he says, that "I am what I am." (verse 10) Paul started out as a Pharisee, as one who was determined to persecute and put down believers in Jesus. In what way is he the same as he was before? (He didn't become timid and quiet, did he?) What does the grace of God have to do with who Paul is? Who gave Paul the courage and persistence to proclaim the Gospel? (verse 11) One of the things about this text that gives me hope is that, if God can use Paul as he is, perhaps God can use me as I am, as well!*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”****ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
 Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

*ELW Song #172**© Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain**Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress**Used by permission. All rights reserved.**Augsburg Fortress License #SAS015552***GOSPEL****Mark 16:1-8***The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

<sup>1</sup>When 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. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But 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. <sup>7</sup>But 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.” <sup>8</sup>So 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.

**Reflection**

*This is such an interesting version of the Easter Gospel. Who came to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body? (verses 1-2) What was the problem they thought they would encounter? (verse 3) How was that particular problem solved for them? (verse 4) What alarmed them? (verse 5) What did the young man say to them? (verse 6) What command did they receive at the tomb? (verse 7) Did they follow this command? (verse 8) What did they do? Why did they act the way they did? Fortunately for us, this is not the end of the story. (It is the end of Mark, though!) Who do you think Mark thought would tell others?*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

Sarah Sedlacek

**SERMON**

Rev. Keith Hohly

**SONG OF THE DAY****“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”****ELW 385**

**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;  
death's mighty stone is rolled away;  
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!

*CCLI Song # 265552 | Cyril Argentine Alington | Melchior Vulpus*

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**PRAYER SONG**

***“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”***

**ELW 752**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*CCLI Song # 22829 | Ken Medema*

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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** –led by Juel & Jim Pierce

*Irene Wall, Phil Heeler, Helen Koch (friend of Irene Wall), Judy Maher (Nila Schneider's cousin), Alan Dunning, Kay Howard, Mike Lawrence & family (son of John Lawrence), Keith Hohly, Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams, Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson, Dorothy Masteller, Dee Rasmussen, and the families of Jim Bigham and Wanda Reynolds*

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*Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.*

*A brief silence.*

*Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Irene, Phil, Helen, Judy, Alan, Kay, Mike and his family, Keith, Rick, Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, the families of Jim Bigham and Wanda Reynolds, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!" Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Amen!**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P** *Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.*

*We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.*

*We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.*

*Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.*

*Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Shower us with life.*

*To you be given all praise,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God,  
now and forever.*

**☩ Amen!**

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**☩ And also with you!**

#### **DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**☩ And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**☩ We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**☩ 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:*

## **SANCTUS**

pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *Blessed are you, O God of the universe.*

*Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.*

*Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.*

*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.*

*With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**☞ Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**☞ O God of resurrection and new life:**

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.*

*Grace our table with your presence.*

**☞ Come, Holy Spirit.**

**☞ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.**

*Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.*

*Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.*

**☞ Come, Holy Spirit.**

**☞ With your holy ones of all times and places,**

*with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,*

*we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.*

**☞ Amen!**

## **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!**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**☞ The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied. All are welcome.**

## COMMUNION

### BLESSING

☞ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☞ **Amen!**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ *Wellspring of joy,*

☞ **through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

### BENEDICTION

☞ *May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.*

*The God of life,*

*Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,*

*bless you now and forever.*

☞ **Amen!**

### SENDING SONG

*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"* vv. 1,2,7,8

ELW 619

**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 and grants me daily breath;  
he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
he lives my mansion to prepare;  
he lives to bring me safely there.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
what joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

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## DISMISSAL

- 📖 *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*
- 🔊 **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- 📖 *Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!*
- 🔊 **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

### **“Crown Him With Many Crowns”**

Sharon Gray, organist

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

**Instruments:** Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

**Song leaders and vocal talents:** Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,  
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,  
Carol Bunge, Kathy Wessler, and Roger Lenander

**Reflections on Today's Readings** written by Rev. Juel Pierce

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