

*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
*(clclutheran.org)*

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**EASTER**  
April 1, 2018

*“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!” (Luke 24:5-6)*

Preservice meditation: Psalm 96 (page 144 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

**Opening Prayer:**

P: Almighty God, You give us JOY—

**C: the infectious joy the angels shared with the women – the contagious joy the women shared with the disciples – the joy that spreads even to us – even today.**

P: Almighty God, you give us JOY—

**C: the joy that enriches our lives as we serve You, our Savior.**

P: Almighty God, you give us JOY—

**C: the joy that anticipates heaven’s eternal courts of joy.**

P: For that is what You give us this day, Almighty God. Your Son’s tomb is open!

**C: The doors of heaven are open for us.**

P: And so, with white-robed saint and angel choir we join the great celestial chorus:

**C: Alleluia!**

P: Praise the Lord! Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C: He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now, and forever. Amen.**

**HYMN: “Christ The Lord Is Risen Again” (#190, The Lutheran Hymnal)**

1. Christ the Lord is ris’n again! Christ has broken death’s strong chain!  
Hark, the angels shout for joy, Singing evermore on high: Hallelujah!
2. He who gave for us His life, Who for us endured the strife,  
Is our Paschal Lamb today. We, too, sing for joy and say: Hallelujah!
3. He who bore all pain and loss Comfortless upon the cross  
Lives in glory now on high, Pleads for us and hears our cry: Hallelujah!
4. He whose path no records tell Hath descended into hell;  
He the strong man armed hath bound And in highest heav’n is crowned. Hallelujah!
5. He who slumbered in the grave Is exalted now to save;  
Now through Christendom it rings That the Lamb is King of kings. Hallelujah!
6. Now He bids us tell abroad How the lost may be restored,  
How the penitent forgiven, How, we, too, may enter heaven. Hallelujah!
7. Thou our Paschal Lamb indeed, Christ, today Thy people feed;  
Take our sins and guilt away That we all may sing for aye: Hallelujah!

**Invocation**

P: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

P: We celebrate this festival day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Upon the hill the cross stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the tomb.

**C: Christ is risen, Alleluia!**

P: Within us, new life is awakened. God has given new hope to a dying world.

**C: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

**ALL SING (from hymn 738, Worship Supplement):**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Jesus Christ was the first to conquer death, the ruler of all the kings of the earth.

**C: He loves us, and by His blood He set us free from our sins.**

P: Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess to You that by nature we are dead in trespasses and sins. All too often we fail to trust in Your promises and obey Your will. In Your great mercy deliver us from the death we deserve, for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and

by Your proclamation of the kingdom:

**C: Holy God, save us.**

P: By Your bloody sweat and bitter grief; by Your cross and suffering; and by Your precious death and burial:

**C: Merciful Redeemer, forgive us.**

P: By Your mighty resurrection; by Your glorious ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit:

**C: Almighty God, save us.**

P: In our times of trouble; in our times of prosperity; in the hour of death; and on the Day of Judgment:

**C: Gracious Lord, deliver us.**

P: Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

**C: Hear us, dear Lord. Amen.**

**ALL SING (from hymn 187, The Lutheran Hymnal):**

Christ is arisen From the grave's dark prison.

We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness. Lord, have mercy.

All our hopes were ended Had Jesus not ascended From the grave triumphantly.

For this, Lord Christ, we worship Thee. Lord, have mercy.

Halleluia! Halleluia! Halleluia!

We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness. Lord, have mercy.

**First Lesson: Isaiah 53:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* offspring, He shall prolong *His* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup> He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Psalm of the Day (responsively) – from Psalm 118**

P: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

**C: The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.**

P: The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

**C: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

P: I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation.

**C: The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

P: This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**C: This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You.

**C: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.**

**Second Lesson: Acts 2:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know – <sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; <sup>24</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

### Easter Confession of Faith

I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, Lord of lords and Savior of the fallen world. I believe that He is the Word made flesh, Who came to earth to redeem all sinners. He was born under the Law, to fulfill all of God's commandments on my behalf. He was crucified at the hands of sinful men, and endured all the punishment that I and all sinners deserved, to fully satisfy the justice of God. He died and was buried.

I believe that on the third day Jesus Christ rose bodily from the dead, as the prophets foretold and as He Himself promised. Proved by the inspired Scriptures and by many eyewitnesses, Jesus' resurrection shows that He is God's Son, that His mission of salvation is complete, and that He has triumphed over death, our last great enemy.

With this victory, Christ has become our forerunner, the first-fruits of all who sleep in Him. Because He rose, I and all who trust in His redeeming work shall rise on the Last Day. Because He lives, I too shall live. For He has promised me: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

**HYMN: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!" (#199, The Lutheran Hymnal)**

1. 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!
2. 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!
3. 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!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

### "THE LIONS' DEN TO THE TOMB"

**Daniel 6:16-17, 19-24** <sup>16</sup> So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." <sup>17</sup> Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring.... <sup>19</sup> Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup> And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice, ... "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, ...

<sup>22</sup> “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” <sup>23</sup> Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. <sup>24</sup> And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast *them* into the den of lions – them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

**Mark 16:1-8** <sup>1</sup> Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. <sup>2</sup> Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. <sup>3</sup> And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” <sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. <sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” <sup>8</sup> So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

#### The Offertory (spoken)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

#### The Offering from grateful hearts

**HYMN: “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” (#200 – selected verses – The Lutheran Hymnal)**

1. I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives who once was dead; He lives my everliving Head.
2. He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save.  
He lives all glorious in the sky, He lives exalted there on high.
3. He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears,  
He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart.
4. 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.
5. 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!”

#### The General Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

#### The Benediction

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. †  
**C (spoken):** AMEN.

**HYMN: “Now All The Vault Of Heav’n Resounds” (#732, Worship Supplement)**

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!

Oh, 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!

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**WELCOME, GUESTS!** Please sign our guest book in the entryway. You are always welcome!  
**TODAY** our usher is Glenn Libby. After our service there is an **EASTER EGG HUNT**,  
followed by a **BRUNCH**.

**FRIDAY:** North Aurora Bible Study: 10:00 AM.

**SUNDAY:** Church: 10:00 AM; Sunday School & Bible Study: 11:15 AM.

**NEXT SUNDAY** our usher is Rick Louderman. North Aurora Care Center Service: 3:00 PM;  
Batavia Rehab Center service: 4:00 PM.

**OUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS** on SUNDAY, APRIL 22.

**WE HAVE A VOTERS MEETING** on SUNDAY, APRIL 29.

**ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH:** Last Sunday’s offering: \$2,380.84; attendance: 31.

Maundy Thursday offering: \$300.00; attendance: 10.

Good Friday offering: \$390.00; attendance: 11. (We need \$1,157.00 each week for our General Fund. Our General Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$204.90.)

**CLC NEWS:** Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Trinity Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, returned the call to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac, WI.