

Ascension Lutheran Church
An affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
(clclutheran.org)

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EASTER
April 16, 2017

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

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

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!

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: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised

incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* ⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”* ⁵⁵ *“O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory?”* ⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁵⁸ *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

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 – the Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

¹ *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.* ² *And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.* ³ *His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.* ⁴ *And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.* ⁵ *But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.* ⁶ *He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.* ⁷ *And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”* ⁸ *So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.* ⁹ *And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.* ¹⁰ *Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”*

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: “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!

The Sermon: Isaiah 53:10-12

BLESSINGS FROM OUR CRUCIFIED, RISEN SAVIOR

¹⁰ *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.* ¹¹ *Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.* ¹² *Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.* (ESV)

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

Easter Lord’s Prayer (ALL)

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN;

Truly You are our Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who, on the day of His resurrection, declared His ascension to “My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.”

HALLOWED BE THY NAME;

Enable us to honor You with a faithful and bold witness to our risen Lord, and a new life worthy of His Gospel.

THY KINGDOM COME;

Keep us under Your good and gracious rule through that Spirit by which we live before You now, and shall live forever.

THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN;

O Father, help us to submit our lives to Your gracious will, even as Jesus put His life into Your hands.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD;

Free us from exaggerated concern and anxiety for our physical welfare, knowing that You are the Provider of all our needs.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US;

Move us to be gracious and forgiving to those who have hurt us, even as You, for Jesus’ sake, have forgiven us, certifying our justification by His resurrection.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION;

From the leaven within and the temptations around us, deliver and keep us, gracious Lord. **BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL;**

Fulfill Your promises to preserve us from all evil, and keep us from despair in the midst of all trouble.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN, AMEN, THAT IS, YES, YES, IT SHALL BE SO!

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: “This Is the Feast of Victory” (#799, Worship Supplement)

(Refrain) 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.

(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, And honor, blessing, and glory are His.

(Refrain) 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.

(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessing, honor, glory, and might Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

For the Lamb who was slain Has begun His reign. Alleluia!

(Final Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WELCOME, GUESTS! Please sign our guest book in the entryway. You are always welcome!

TODAY our usher is Greg Suwanski. After our service there is an Easter egg hunt, followed by a BRUNCH. N. Aurora Care Center service: 3 PM; Batavia Rehab Center service: 4 PM.

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 Tyler Louderman. Our CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS. North Aurora Care Center Service: 3:00 PM; Batavia Rehab Center service: 4:00 PM.

WE HAVE A VOTERS MEETING two weeks from today, on April 30.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: last Sunday’s offering was \$2,020.00; our attendance was 22.

THANK YOU, everyone who helped with last Sunday’s spring cleaning!

CLC NEWS: Pastor Neal Radichel, Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI, returned the call to Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN. Immanuel has called Ben Hanel as high school Social Studies teacher. Pastor David Schaller, Redeemer Lutheran, Dowagiac, MI, returned the call to Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL. Teacher Paul Tiefel III returned the call to open the school at Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN. Teacher Ann Sprengeler, Faith Lutheran, Markesan, WI, returned the call to Redeemer Lutheran school, Cheyenne, WY.