

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

oS850 Wenmoth Road
Batavia, Illinois 60510-9711
(630) 879-9455

ascensionbatavia.org – ascensionbatavia@gmail.com

Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – Organist: Peggy Kesterson

EASTER

April 21, 2019



“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

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

OPENING HYMN: 799 (Worship Supplement) “This Is the Feast of Victory”

(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 and 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!

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.

First Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6

¹ And in that day you will say: “O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. ² Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’” ³ Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And in that day you will say: “Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things; this *is* known in all the earth. ⁶ Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great *is* the Holy One of Israel in your midst!”

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 30

M: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up.

C: O LORD MY GOD, I CRIED OUT TO YOU, AND YOU HEALED ME.

M: Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

C: FOR HIS ANGER IS BUT FOR A MOMENT, HIS FAVOR IS FOR LIFE; WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING.

M: LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled.

C: HEAR, O LORD, AND HAVE MERCY ON ME; LORD, BE MY HELPER!

M: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

C: TO THE END THAT MY GLORY MAY SING PRAISE TO YOU AND NOT BE SILENT. O LORD MY GOD, I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOREVER.

Second Lesson – the Gospel: John 20:1-18 *rise*

¹ Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” ³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

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

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sinner 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.” Amen.

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

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: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY!

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 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

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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.

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. Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

The Offering

HYMN 200: 1-2, 5, 7-8 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”*

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.

He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save.
He lives all glorious in the sky, He lives exalted there on high.

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.

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 Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives, “I know that my Redeemer lives!”

Special Prayers, The General Prayer

Easter Lord’s Prayer – ALL PRAY:

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, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. †

C (spoken): AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN: 199 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!”*

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 ye heav’nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

WELCOME, VISITORS! Please sign our guest book in the narthex, and come again!

TODAY our usher is Glenn Libby. Please stay after our service for the CHILDREN’S EASTER EGG HUNT, then a BRUNCH.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE CLASS: 11:15 AM.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday’s offering was \$614.11 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); and our attendance was 16. Our General Fund

balance as of last Sunday was \$645.00. We are currently behind one mortgage payment.

WE HAVE A CHURCH WORK DAY on SUNDAY, MAY 19.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Rick Louderman. SERVICES: NACC: 3:00 PM; BRC: 4:00 PM.