

**Easter Sunday
April 17, 2022**

Introduction to the Day

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Prelude
Church Bells**

Processional Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Easter Proclamation

P: Hearing the Hosannas, those in power tried to silence the multitudes, but the earth cried out!

C: Christ is risen!

P: We have been given the mandate to love as Christ loved us. We cry out!

C: Christ is risen!

P: In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. In confidence that Christ's finish on the Cross is our beginning. Here, early on the first day of the week. We cry out!

C: Christ is risen!

P: Christ has overcome sin, death, and the power of the devil for you this day. The cross is bare. The tomb is empty. We cry out!

C: Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Processional Hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" #365

Greeting – The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, 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.

Reading: Psalm 118:1-4, 19-24

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
(Cong) "His steadfast love endures forever."
Let the house of Aaron say,
(Cong) "His steadfast love endures forever."
Let those who fear the LORD say,
(Cong) "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Heavenly Bells

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Anne Weber

Anthem "Lord of the Dance"

Senior Choir

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

13 Times.

13 times in our Easter Gospel, we get the reminder of what took place that day. Starting with the women looking into the tomb and seeing it empty, and going until the two on the Road to Emmaus return to the 11, we hear some variation of Christ is raised, he is raised indeed!

It starts with the experience of the women who go to the tomb to do what they do best - care for Jesus, even after his death.

It is there that they encounter the Easter story. "He is not here, but has risen."

In disbelief they are approached in the garden by the truth they already knew. "Remember how he told you, 'the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'"

It is with that reminder of the truth they already knew that they remembered. And with that, they ran. Unable to contain their excitement they went and found the 11. And "they told all this to the 11 and to the rest."

Their story, their encounter with the Easter promise, seemed an idle tale. They told them all they had experienced, and it was met with disbelief. An idle tale.

Peter needed to experience it for himself. And in his disbelief he, too, encounters the Easter story. The promise he had known was to come. "He saw the linen clothes by themselves." And he went home amazed.

We get a break in the story at this point. We know that quite a bit of time passes between verse 12 and verse 13, enough time that two of the ones that we presume were there in the morning, are now about 7 miles from Jerusalem. And we find them walking on the Road to Emmaus.

They are still in disbelief of all that has happened, recounting the events in their mind, surely discussing what they saw on Friday and heard earlier on Sunday.

And it is here, in their trying to make sense of all they've experienced, the coming true of the things they'd been told would happen, and the inescapable disbelief in the face of it all anyways, that Jesus meets them. Notice that Jesus, in Luke's Gospel, doesn't first appear to the 11, but rather he makes an appearance to these two others on the Road to Emmaus? That seems not insignificant.

Jesus first encounter post resurrection in Luke's Gospel, is with two others, not of the 11. And he asks them what they're discussing. He gives them an opportunity to share they're experience. And, to become a part of it. He even plays a little clueless, so as to get the whole story!

Even in revealing the truth and promise that they'd been told would happen, Jesus still does not say, "Hey guys, it is me." He calls them out for their lack of believing, and is prepared to go on his way.

But it is late. And, asking themselves what would Jesus do with this stranger we've met on the road, they invite him in.

It is there, in that invitation, that Christ's presence is revealed to them. Sitting down at the table Jesus broke bread with them. And their eyes are opened. The rush of feelings they'd had on the road come back to them as they remember him opening the scriptures to them.

With haste, and the hour late, they return to the 11 and their companions and tell them all they have experienced. That they have had a Jesus encounter. And that it was realized in the breaking of the bread.

As people of faith, we too have this over and over and over again encounter with the promise of this Easter story.

As people of faith, whether that be a faith we struggle with or a faith we've never been more confident in, and anything in between, we encounter this promise daily in the risen Christ.

Each day we are made new in encountering the reality of being known - seen - and loved in all our brokenness by a God whose love for us is far greater than we could ever imagine. And that love does, indeed, make us new each and every day, over and over and over again.

In the Easter story we are reminded again and again and again of the promise of a God who would overcome sin death and the power of the devil for us.

And, in the hearing of the Easter story we are called to tell that story to all who will hear it.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Song of the Day "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

#367

The 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

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.
A brief silence.

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world (*especially*). Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Kathy, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna*). Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

Amen.

Offering **“This is Amazing Grace”**

Shepherd’s Light

Offertory Prayer

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together
in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion

Prayer

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Anthem

“Happy Day ”

Good Shepherd Ensemble

Blessing

God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Benediction

Sending Song

“Thine Is the Glory”

#376

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Tell what God has done.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

100TH Birthday Party for Bob Anderson

April 19, 2-5 p.m. at Good Shepherd

Stand in the Light Memory Choir concert

Thursday, April 21

10 a.m. dress rehearsal open to the public

6:30 p.m. concert

FREE BUT TICKETS ARE REQUIRED. Call 715-210-4165.

Stand in the Light Memory Choir with Luther College Nordic Choir

At the Pablo Center | May 23 | RCU Theatre

FREE BUT TICKETS ARE REQUIRED – Contact the Pablo Center (715) 492-0240.

I WON'T FORGET - MEMORIES AND MUSIC

Join us for an evening of choral music featuring the Luther College Nordic Choir from Decorah, Iowa and the Stand In The Light Memory Choir from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. This performance is in support of the Standing in the Light Memory Choir and the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County. Their work raises awareness and supports a strong community for adults with memory loss and those with disabilities.