

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

Easter Sunday † April 12, 2020 † 10:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor

Miriam Beecher, Pastor

David Beecher, Minister of Music

Kendra Campbell-Milburn and Brad Milburn, musicians

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)*

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

PRELUDES: Sandra Porter Bohlken and Bill Porter; Sarah Juhasz, handbell soloist; Sarah Juhasz, symphonic chimes; Sara Kahley Turk, flute quartet

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

CALL TO WORSHIP

- ☐ Morning has broken, but this morning is different.
☑ **We've come to visit the grave of a friend, but "he is not here."**
☐ Darkness and death end in defeat;
☑ **for Christ is risen in our hearts.**
☐ He has taken away our funeral clothes and re-clothed us in joy.
☑ **He has turned our mourning into dancing!**

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE: *If you have a candle ready, please join us in lighting it now.*

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
☑ **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

ELW Hymn 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!**

**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!**

GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☑ **Amen.**

LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-6

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Family Holy Week Box video

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But 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. ⁷But 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." ⁸So 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.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Thine Is the Glory*

ELW Hymn 376

**Thine is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son; Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away, Kept the folded grave clothes Where thy body lay.**

REFRAIN: Thine is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son; Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!

**Lo, Jesus meets thee, Risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee, Scatters fear and gloom;
Let his Church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting! REFRAIN**

**No more we doubt thee, Glorious Prince of life; Life is naught without thee; Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors, Through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. REFRAIN**

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

☞ **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 THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Lord, in your mercy," please respond, "hear our prayer."

The prayers are ended with these words, "With bold confidence in your love, almighty God,

we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."

EASTER AFFIRMATION

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☞ **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WORSHIP CONTINUES AT 10:45 A.M. WITH THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION live.

Please change to Facebook Live to participate with the whole Body of Christ.

You may use bread and wine or grape juice, or just some form of bread.

If you are worshiping at a different time, you may access the video recording of Communion at Facebook or in the Sermons folder on the Christ Our Shepherd website: coslutheran.org

MUSIC FOR THE TRANSITION: Bill Porter and Sandra Porter Bohlken

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation; and so, with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** 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.
- C** **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.**

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

“The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *This Easter Celebration*

Tune: LANCASHIRE (“Lead On, O King Eternal” ELW Hymn 805)

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known. We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone. We're distant from our neighbors — from worship leaders, too. [No instruments assembled] to set a festive mood. No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way. O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day? With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb. Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see — who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well: Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell. Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day! Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry. In homes and in the places of help and healing, too, we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

--Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

- P** Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news.
Invite all to join in Jesus' pathway of joy and life. Alleluia!
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**