



Easter

Sunday, March 31, 2024
St. James Lutheran Church

INTRODUCTION

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water is poured into the font as the Presiding minister gives thanks.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

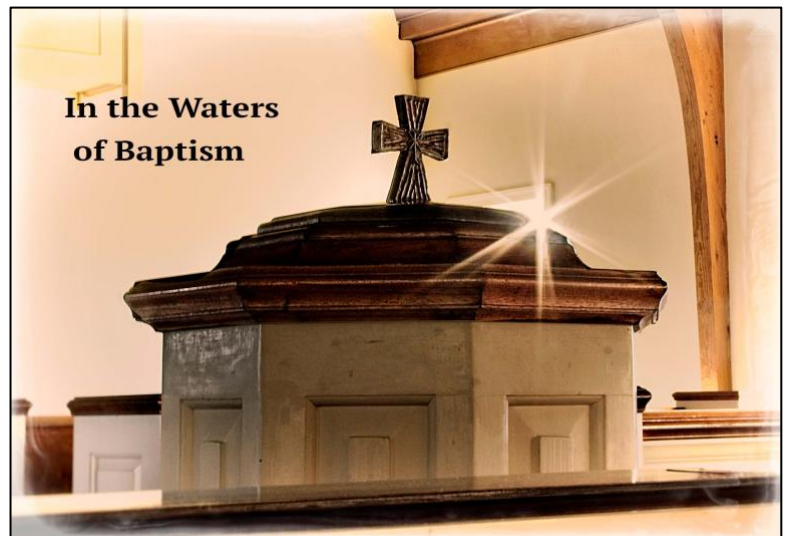
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.



Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
 Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
 Where despair prevails, grant hope.
 Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
 We ask this through Christ,
 who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (LBW 151)

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.

KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,
 and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **☩** A - men

A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

☩ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
 strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
 has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. . . .

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.

FIRST READING:

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

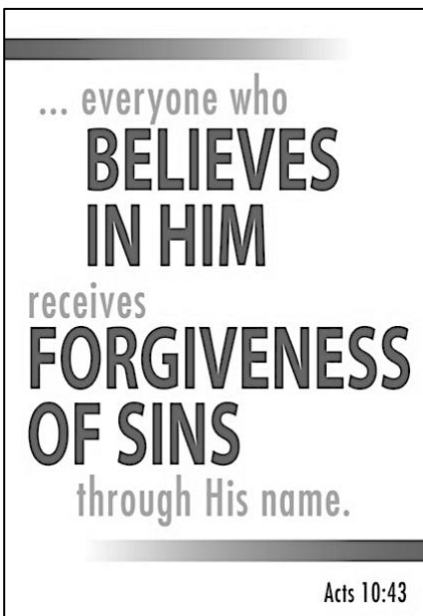
¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.



¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.

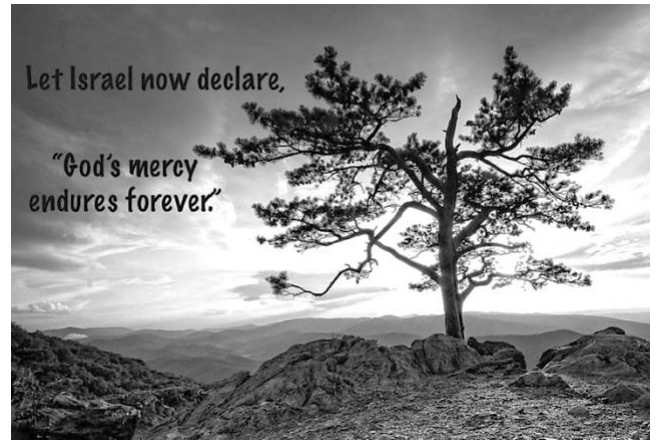
²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.



Second Reading:

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

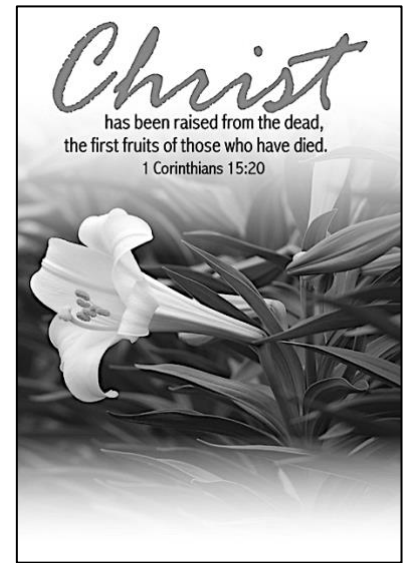
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8



**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for St. James our community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we pray for all who are sick or hospitalized, comfort all who are vulnerable, relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, and those living in institutions. We especially pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Bonnie, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, and Joyce. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord from afar.)

Anthem: "Rise Again" Words and music by Dallas Holm.

OFFERING



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

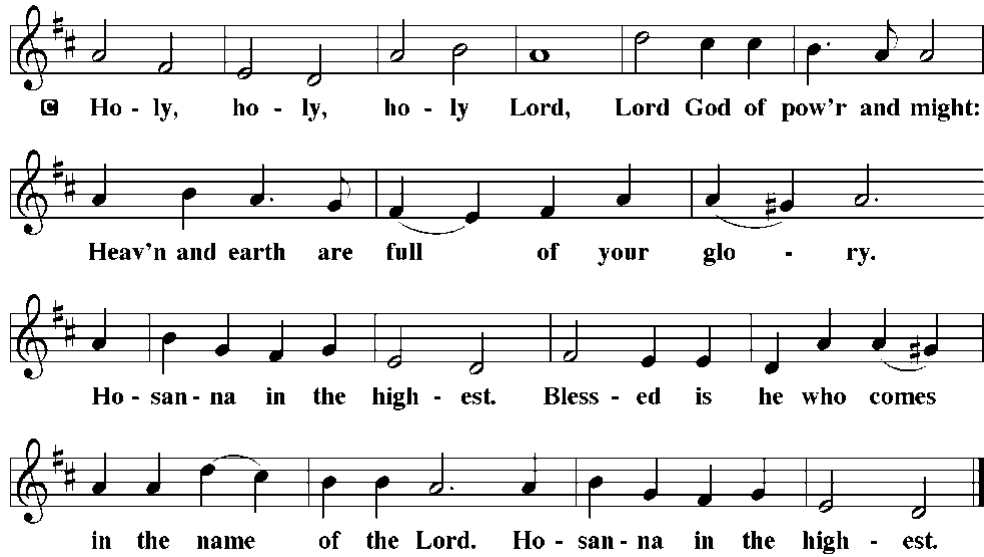
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.


THANKSGIVING

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**



March
31st Bambi Straw
April
7th Sherie Whiting-Rohal
14th Lynda Diehl
21st Tammy Jones
28th Bambi Straw

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" (LBW 131)

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Bonnie Snyder (Danny's mother), and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt).

Prayer Concerns

Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), and Joyce Dull.

Community Conversations

- April flowers will be given by Ellie Sander.
- April 2nd Open Circle at 1pm at St. James. Bambi is the hostess.
- April 9th Quilt Group meets at 1pm.
- April 10th Council Meeting at 9am.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - April—Anne Putnam

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



We need your help! The Backpack program has grown to 18 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese | Kroger meals |
| Chef Boyardee meals | Fruit cups |
| Boxes of cereal | Poptarts |
| Oatmeal | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices | Yahoo chocolate milk |
| Apple sauce | Raisins |
| "Hugs" Drink Barrels | All single servings |

Flowers Given For the Celebration of Christ's Resurrection

Betty Bartley

In memory of Tom Bartley
 In memory of Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Miller
 In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Bartley, Sr.

Ivan Diehl

In memory of Linda Diehl

Lynda & Sam Diehl

In memory of Russell & Lydia Diehl
 In memory of Louis Dixey
 In memory of Bob Dixey

Joyce Dull, Chris, Kevin, Cameron, Lexi, and Blake

In memory of Harry Dull
 In memory of Frances Hall
 In memory of Mary Shiplett
 In memory of Bill & Lucille Hiner

Ruth Foreman

In memory of Rose Shank
 In memory of Ronald Robinson

Gene Giltner

In memory of Roberta Giltner
 In memory of Benedict Giltner

John Grove

In memory of Crystal Grove

Eddie Jones, Tammy & Ronnie Jones, and Angie & Rick Pino

In memory of Patsy Jones

Anne & Pastor Gordon Putnam

In memory of our parents and grandparents
 In honor of Ruth Foreman

Sherie & Paul Rohal

In memory of Loretta Whiting

Debbie & Danny Snyder, Becky Dick, and Jennifer Dick

In memory of Glenn & Estelle Thayer
 In memory of Jimmy Dick
 In memory of Jimmy Snyder
 In honor of Bonnie Snyder

Bambi & Steve Straw

In memory of Ruth Straw

Gillian Taylor

In memory of Betty Schwartz
 In honor of Flora Williams

Norma Turak

In memory of Richard Turak
 In memory of George & Frances Turak
 In memory of Adolph & Cecelia Dennler

Dawn & Winston Whitecotton

In memory of Linda Diehl
 In memory of Leo Whitecotton
 In honor of Linda Whitecotton

Flora Williams

In memory of my precious loved ones in Heaven

APRIL	
BIRTHDAYS	
1st	Andre Viette
5th	Savannah Peters
8th	Gillian Taylor
9th	Cindy Wright
9th	Gordon Putnam
12th	Betty Diehl
15th	Flora Williams
25th	Sharon Bartley
28th	Debbie Snyder
29th	Amanda Thompson

Pastor Gordon Putnam
 434-760-0263
 Grputnam1949@gmail.com
 Pastor Carl Trost
 Hannah Pingel, Pianist
 Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

From sundaysandseasons.com.
 Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.