

**Christ's United ✘ Friedens ✘ St. James
Lutheran Churches
Ashland – Hegins – Pitman PA**

**The Resurrection of our Lord ✘ Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

INTRODUCTION

This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. We are gathered around a pillar of fire, to hear ancient stories of our faith, and share the food and drink of the Promised Land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the Resurrection.

GATHERING PRAYER

O living God, this morning began in darkness, the day dawned in quiet. You come and arise, God, bringing forth the sun from its slumber, and Jesus from the tomb. Break forth your Holy Light, in your blessed Child, Jesus, the Christ. Greet us on this day of mystery and hope. In Jesus Name, **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

The Keeper of the Fire lights the new fire.

The New Fire is the remembrance of God's creative power at the beginning of time, bringing light out of darkness. The fire is God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush, the fire on Mount Sinai, and God's pillar of fire leading the people to the Promised Land. The fire is the flame of Pentecost and it is the fire that burned palms into ash that marked our foreheads as sinners. Finally, this fire is the light of new life given through the resurrection of Christ, shining brightly in our midst.

BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

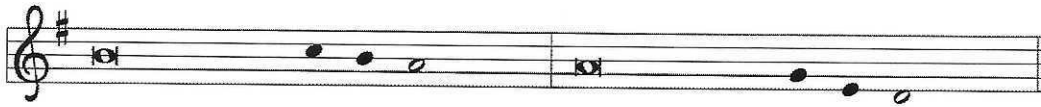
Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of Righteousness. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the flame of the New Fire

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispels the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The Assembly processes into the nave as the Psalm is sung by the cantor.

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24



- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
his mercy en- | dures forever.
- ²Let Israel | now proclaim,*
“His mercy en- | dures forever.”
- ¹⁴The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and he has become | my salvation.
- ¹⁵There is a sound of exulta- | tion and victory*
in the tents | of the righteous:
- ¹⁶“The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!*
- The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
- The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!”
- ¹⁷I shall not | die, but live,*
and declare the works | of the LORD.
- ¹⁸The LORD has pun- | ished me sorely,*
but he did not hand me o- | ver to death.
- ¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness;*
I will enter them; I will offer thanks | to the LORD.
- ²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD;*
he who is right- | eous may enter.”
- ²¹I will give thanks to you, for you | answered me*
and have become | my salvation.
- ²²The same stone which the build- | ers rejected*
has become the chief | cornerstone.
- ²³This is | the LORD’s doing,*
and it is marvelous | in our eyes.
- ²⁴On this day the | LORD has acted;*
we will rejoice and be | glad in it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *The Pastor prays on behalf of the Assembly*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

EASTER VERSE *Verse sung by Cantor. Alleluia sung by Congregation*



Alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, | has been sacrificed.* Therefore, let us | keep the feast. *Alleluia.* (1 Cor. 5:7, 8)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:1-10

Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Pastor Laura Csellak

HYMN "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

NICENE CREED

The Assembly confesses faith in the Triune God

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS

Response : "Hear our prayer"

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection, in every age you give the church the gift of faithful servants as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. Open our ears to hear their proclamation in this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—heaven and earth declare your glory. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song of the heavenly host as we celebrate your resurrection victory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The nations of the world are broken and hurting; our minds are set on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all lands and peoples on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence. During these troubled times we most especially pray for those who are afflicted with the coronavirus, their families and friends, and those who have lost loved

ones to this dread disease. O Risen Christ, the whole world cries out to you for healing and comfort, Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we long for the day when we will assemble again as your living body. Yet, our joy in your resurrection victory can never be diminished, for you are Lord of all things. Strengthen those who have lost hope, give courage to doctors, emergency responders, nurses, caregivers and all who boldly serve as your light of life in the midst of darkness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died, especially those we hold in the memory of our hearts. Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Assembly shares a sign of peace by bowing to one another.

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *The pastor offers the prayer.*

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to 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**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

This is the wedding feast of the Lamb. Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

HOLY COMMUNION HYMNS: *"Jesus Paid It All"*

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

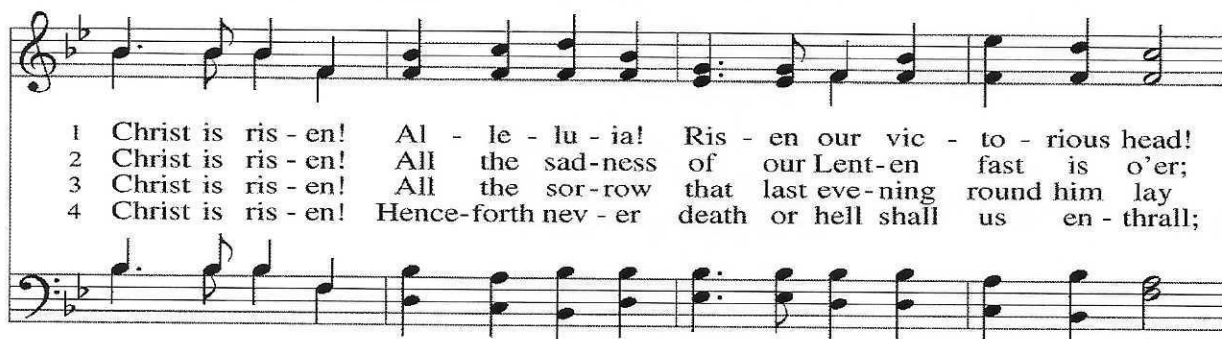
PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

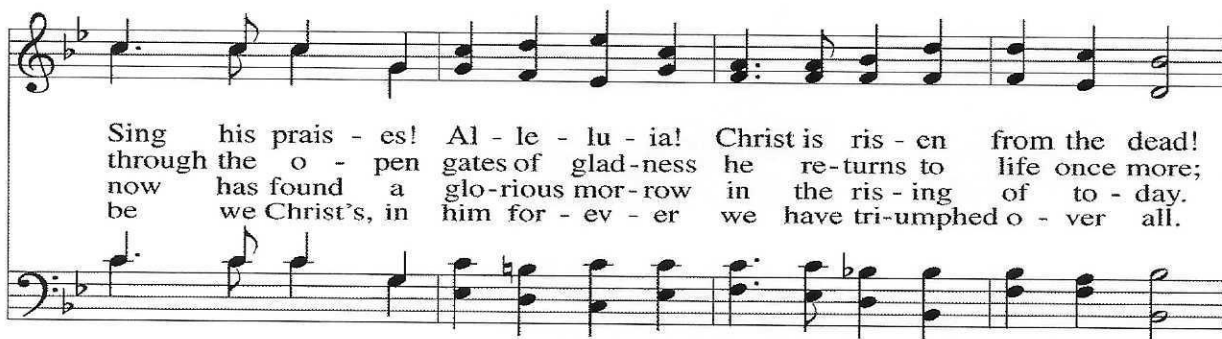
BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

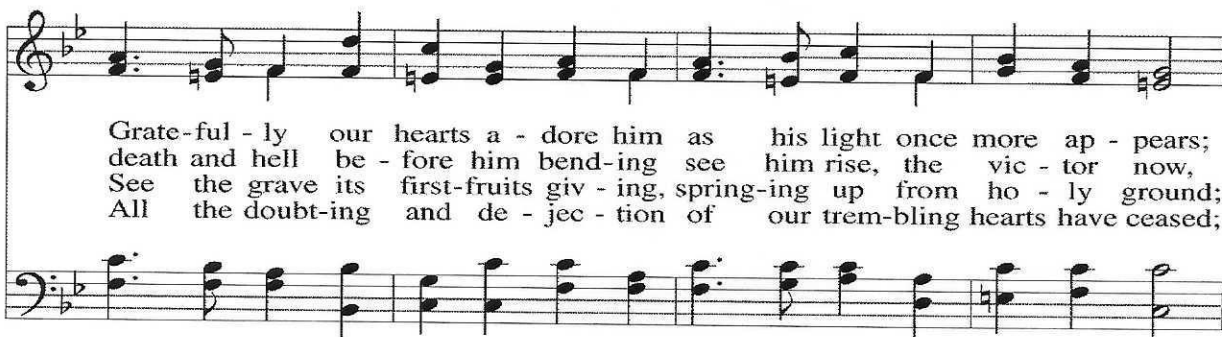
HYMN "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall;



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.
be we Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;

bow-ing down in joy be-fore him, ris-ing up from griefs and tears.
 an-gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo-ry round his wound-ed brow.
 he was dead, but now is liv-ing; he was lost, but he is found.
 hail the day of res-ur-rec-tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain

Christ is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia! Ris-en our vic-to-rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he promised.
 Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



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Leading Worship

Presiding: Rev. Mark E. Swanson
 Preaching and Assisting: Rev. Laura A. Csellak
 Organist: Mrs. Jamie Johnson
 Keeper of the New Fire: Mr. Larry Wolfgang
 Crucifer: Mr. John Denchak
 Videographer: Mr. Gary Klinger