

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**March 31, 2024**  
**Easter Festival Worship 9 AM**  
*We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love!*

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION: *The Presiding Minister proclaims the resurrection from the back of the church, proclaiming three times:*  
Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*All stand to sing the entrance hymn.*

ENTRANCE HYMN *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* ELW 365  
Vs. 1 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!

Vs. 2 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!

Vs. 3 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!

Vs. 4 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!

EASTER DIALOG

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!  
**He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!**  
Rejoice then, even in your distress.  
**We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**  
God has claimed us as his own.  
**God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**  
Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Oh God, giver of new life, we gather this morning with our alleluias, our banners and flowers and trumpets and song. Today Lent is ended, and the time of our salvation has begun. We come to worship in beauty and in truth. We come because we have hope that the resurrection will enter into each of our lives and transform them. Through Christ's spirit we have come to love one another. This is what you showed us on the first Easter when you raised your son from the dead; your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Christ Now Is King*

Chancel Choir

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC *Calvary's Enough*

Sydney Sullivan

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how 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. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not 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. <sup>42</sup>He 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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *King of Kings*

Grace Weaver

EASTER GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you

have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Risen Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SPECIAL MUSIC  
SERMON

Kinzie Johanns

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* ELW 367

1 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! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 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!

3 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!

4 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!

NICENE CREED

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC *Oceans*

Blythe Peterson

**OFFERTORY PRAYER: 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.**

#### COMMUNION LITANY

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 our thanks and praise.**

Christ is alive and the world has changed. Creation is not the same. For in the beginning God created all things and now redeems all things, as promised to Adam and Eve, to Abraham and Sarah, to all of us.

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen! We feast now as we celebrate his Resurrection Promise.**

#### 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Christ who is alive in this place now invites you to the table to share in the bread and wine that is his own holy presence and a foretaste of the heavenly feast that has no end. All is prepared—come and eat.

*DISTRIBUTION Communion will be served continuously. Proceed up the center aisle and return to your pews using the side aisles. We have purple wine or white grape juice available. There is also gluten-free bread available for those who need it.*

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

Leah Groh

POST COMMUNION BLESSING: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

#### 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.**

CLOSING HYMN *Thine Is the Glory*

ELW 376

Vs. 1 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!

Vs. 2 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*

Vs. 3: 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*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, share the good news! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**