

Ascension Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord April 12, 2020

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

INTRODUCTION

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the “eighth day” of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

People of God, you have come seeking the Christ, the Son of the living God.

We have set our doubt aside and come. We have lived with our fear too long and need a word of hope. We have heard that Jesus has conquered death and we crave to hear the Good News!

Do not be afraid, for He is risen from the dead. He has broken the tomb wide open. He has come back to life and is living together with us right here – right now.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;
and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.
Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

HYMN 365 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!" Verses 1 and 2

- 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!
- 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!

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

GREETING

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

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: Acts 10:34–43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to the Gentiles just as it had to Jews.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "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."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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!

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Christina Auch

HYMN OF THE DAY #382 “Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”

<p>1 Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head! Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead! Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears; bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.</p>	<p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head! Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!</p>
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2 Christ is risen! All the sadness
of our Lenten fast is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending
see him rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow.

Refrain

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

NICENE CREED

God has gathered his people into one Church through Christ. Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, we confess our faith.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Observe a brief silence for reflection.

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

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries 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. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts...

Mary Allen (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Jennings** Brooks (Jim Wilson's roommate), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Betty** Connor (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friend), **Pat** Farley (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Evan** Greene (Allen Philbeck friend's son), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBells' friends), **The Holidia Family** (friend of Lisa Philbeck), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mack** Jenkins (Dave Williams' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Cathy** Kingsborough (friend of the Lacy/Smolzer family), **Becky and George** Kraft (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Kevin** Lilly (Vicky Galloway's 2nd cousin), **Heather** Lyerly (Rose Cook's great niece), **Cathy** Lyerly (Rose Cook's sister-in-law), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Jameson** McGill (Pastor Christina's friends' son), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Charlotte** Morin (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Nancy** Norris (Charlie Berger's aunt), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Lori** Rosamond (Pastor Christina's stepsister), **Pastor Eric** Sellers (Priscilla Williams'

friend), **Zuzana Rybnicek** (The Blalock's friend), **Jan Tucker** (Ozark bank employee), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Renee Walton, Molly and Darryl Waterstraat** (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie Welch** (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Eric West** (Bob and Vickie Jones' son-in-law), **Christopher Willever** (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann Woolley** (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **Denise and Savannah Yount** (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

Members: **Dean Davis, Lin Washburn, Dot Paul, Bob Bryant, Jane Sneed, William Coyne, Jim Wilson, Steve Eckard, Sandy Harman, Bobbie Johnson, Patricia DuBose and Bobby Jones**

In Undergraduate College: Emma Auch, Brooke Buchanan, Parker Hart, Elizabeth Hoffman, Samantha Hoffman, Jacob Stone

Those Awaiting Arrival of Children: Emma and Patrick Budzinski (daughter and son-in-law of Greg and Chrystal Blalock).

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. 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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace on video or say: "Peace be with you" from wherever you are or type it in the chat or comments.

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text*

as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

OFFERTORY

“Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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.

BLESSING

Go forth and tell everyone the Good News that Christ is risen! through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **We will tell them that Christ triumphed over death and the grave.**

Tell them that his spirit is alive in the world today. **We will praise him with our words and our deeds as we go forth in his holy name. Alleluia!**

May Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us now and forever. **Amen!**

HYMN #380

“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives”

- 1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.

- 2 Jesus lives! Why do you weep?
Why that sad and mournful sigh?
Christ who died our brother here
lives our brother still on high,
lives forever to bestow
blessings on his church below.

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Response: All face to face, in person gatherings at Ascension are canceled through Sunday, May 10.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

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