

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Easter Sunday - April 12, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #145 - "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"**

**Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!  
Death no longer can appall me.  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!  
From the grave Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! To him the throne  
High o'er heav'n and earth is given.  
I shall go where he is gone,  
Live and reign with him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! For me he died;  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to him and glory giving.  
All I need God will dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! I know full well  
Nothing me from him shall sever,  
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell  
Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be a sure defense;  
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! And now is death  
But the gate to life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath  
When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:  
“Jesus is my confidence!”**

**Confession of Sins:**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**First Lesson: Jonah 2:2-9**

He said the following: In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the belly of the grave I cried out, and you heard my voice. You threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas. The currents swept around me. All your breakers and your waves swept over me. I said, “I have been driven away from your sight. Nevertheless, I will once again look toward your holy temple.” Waters engulfed me so that I was near death. The deep surrounded me. Seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down. The earth locked me behind its bars forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD. My prayer came to you, to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the mercy that is theirs. But I, with a shout of thanksgiving, will indeed sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will certainly pay in full. Salvation belongs to the LORD! (EHV)

**Psalm 118:**

**Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

**The LORD is my strength and my song;  
He has become my salvation.**

**The LORD's right hand is lifted high;  
The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!**

**I will not die but live,  
And will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

**Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

**I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
You have become my salvation.**

**The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;  
The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**This is the day the LORD has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

**Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4**

Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.  
(EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

**Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!" They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."(EHV)

**The Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn #146 - "*His Battle Ended There*"**

**His battle ended there,  
Death was overcome.**

**Jesus, alive again,  
Wore the victor's crown.  
Clearly sin had failed;  
Goodness had prevailed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dread pow'rs of death and sin  
Had him in their hold.  
When Jesus rose again  
All their plans were foiled.  
Jesus lived again,  
Triumphed over sin.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dead in the grave he lay,  
Mourned by ev'ry friend.  
Those dark and fearful days  
Then did reach their end.  
God raised him to life,  
Victor in the strife.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**He burst the chains of sin,  
Opened death's dark jail.  
God filled him with new life,  
Life that could not fail.  
Right before their eyes  
Jesus did arise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The Sermon:      Revelation 19:11-16  
                          "Victory!"**

Revelation 19:11-16 - *"I saw heaven standing open, and there was a **white** horse!  
Its rider is called **Faithful** and **True**, and he judges and makes war in  
**righteousness**. His eyes are like blazing **flames**, and on his head are many*

*crowns. He has a **name** written on him, which no one knows except he himself. He is also clothed in a **garment** that had been dipped in **blood**, and his name is the **Word of God**. The armies in heaven, which were clothed with white, clean, fine linen, were **following** him on white horses. Out of his mouth comes a sharp **sword** with which to strike down the nations. He will **shepherd** them with an **iron** staff. He himself is going to trample the winepress of the fierce **anger** of the Almighty God. On his garment and on his thigh this name is written: **King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**"*

Today is **Easter Sunday** - a day to celebrate the **Victory** of the great warrior who is pictured in our text - our Lord **Jesus**. But first let's consider another picture. There is a **painting** entitled "**The Race Track**" in Cleveland's Museum of Art. Its **subtitle** reads, "**Death on a Pale Horse.**" The horseman is all alone on the track, and he's wielding a huge **scythe**. But perhaps the most interesting thing about the picture is that the rider is going around the track **clockwise** - the **wrong** way. You can probably figure out **why**. The rider is **Death** - and he's riding in the **opposite** direction so he can pick off everyone **else** as they race toward the finish line. We know that's the way it works. **Death** is coming after **all** of us. He's got our friends and our family in his sights, and he's going to catch **us** too. There is **no escaping** Death. Death always **wins**, or so it would seem.

But now let's go back to the picture in our **text**. The rider on a **white** horse is the **King** of kings and **Lord** of lords, and He looks pretty **scary**. His eyes are like blazing **flames**, and a sharp **sword** is coming out of His mouth. But we also notice His great **power**. He overcomes **everything**. He wins the **Victory**. This is the **final image** of the warrior we have been talking about throughout the Lenten Season. So, on this Easter morning we **celebrate** our Lord's **Victory** over **Satan** and **Death**.

Jesus is the greatest warrior **ever**. But on Good Friday we left Him hanging on a **cross**. Jesus had just declared, "*It is **finished**,*" and then He voluntarily gave up His **life**. His body went **limp**, and His heart **stopped**. So, we might wonder, "How can He win the **Victory** if He's **dead**?" Our text has the **answer**. "*I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war in righteousness.*" I hope you noticed that this rider is not a **statue** carved out of **marble** or cast in **bronze**. He's **alive** - He's **powerful** - and He's actively waging **war** against our enemies. We know that this rider is **Jesus**, and it's obvious that things have completely **changed** since Good Friday. Jesus is no longer a **captive** being **humiliated** by soldiers. He is no longer being **beaten** and **whipped**. His head isn't **bowed**, and His body is not in a **grave**.

But rather, as Paul wrote in the great resurrection chapter of the Bible, “*Christ has been **raised** from the dead.*”

That’s the **Victory** we celebrate today - the **Victory** over **Death**. This time Death **didn’t win**, because Jesus **conquered** Death. Oh, there’s no doubt that Jesus actually **died**. The Roman soldiers made **sure** He was dead. Jesus’ **body** was then laid in a **grave**, and it was tightly **sealed**. But on Easter morning, that grave was **empty**. The **empty tomb** makes it clear that Jesus is **more powerful** than Death. Jesus **destroyed** the power of Death. He made Death **die**.

Jesus met Death **head on**. He offered the perfect **sacrifice** which was necessary to remove the **sin** and **guilt** of the entire **world**. But after He **died**, He **rose** again. Death had **no power** over Him, because Jesus is **stronger** than Death. He **lives**, and in our text He rides out on a white horse in **Victory**. The **battles** are **over**, and the **war** has been **won**.

There’s **no doubt** about that fact, because the **proof** is overwhelming. The Bible records over a **dozen** different appearances of the **risen** Jesus, including one time when there were **over 500** people present. Most of the **Gospel** accounts, including **St. Paul’s** account of the resurrection, were written during the lifetime of **thousands** of people who were alive at the time of the first Easter. If it were **not** true, they would have **said** so and **written** so. But the **fact** is, that Jesus **actually did rise** from the grave.

That fact is vitally **important** to **all** of us, because we **know** that death is coming for **us** too. Even though people might try to push it away, and spend millions of dollars a year in the United States alone trying to treat **cancers**, and **heart** disease, and most recently **covid-19**, the fact is that we can’t stop **death** from coming. There’s only **one solution** for **death** - and that’s our **Savior**.

The empty tomb of Jesus **proves** that Jesus’ words about death are true: “*I am the **resurrection** and the **life**. Whoever believes in me will **live**, even if he **dies**. And whoever lives and believes in me will **never perish**.*” That’s **us**. At some time, maybe sooner than we think, we’re **all** going to die. But it doesn’t matter, because Jesus has promised that when we **die** we will **not perish**. Instead, we will **rise** from death to **live again**. We will simply close our eyes in **death**, just as **Jesus** did, and fall asleep only to **rise** again in glory. We **must** put off this **mortal** life, so we can **rise** again to inherit an **immortal** life. And it will all happen, “*In a **moment**, in the **blink** of an eye, at the last **trumpet**. For the trumpet will **sound**, and the dead will*

*be **raised** imperishable, and we will be **changed**. For this **perishable** body must put on **imperishability**, and this **mortal** body must put on **immortality**.”*

The apostle’s words bring us back to our victorious **Lord** riding the white horse. He has the power to **do** everything He has **promised**, because our living warrior has **all authority** on the Last Day. Again we read, *“His eyes are like blazing **flames**, and on his head are many **crowns**. He has a **name** written on him, which no one knows except he himself. He is also clothed in a **garment** that had been dipped in **blood**, and his name is the **Word of God**. The armies in heaven, which were clothed with white, clean, fine linen, were **following** him on white horses. Out of his mouth comes a sharp **sword** with which to strike down the nations. He will **shepherd** them with an **iron** staff. He himself is going to **trample** the winepress of the fierce **anger** of the Almighty God. On his garment and on his thigh this name is written: **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.”*

The awesome power of Jesus is portrayed with a sharp **sword** and an iron **staff**, as He carries out the fierce **anger** of the Heavenly Father. Notice that Jesus’ garment is dipped in **blood**. We immediately think of **His** blood - the blood He shed on the **cross**. But the Prophet Isaiah helps us to understand that this is actually a very graphic picture of the **battle** Jesus fought against His enemies. Isaiah wrote, *“Why is your clothing so **red**? Why are your garments like those of someone who has been trampling **grapes** in a winepress?”* The one robed in splendor proclaimed, *“I stomped on them in my **anger**, and I **trampled** them in my **wrath**, and **their juice** splattered on my garments. I **stained** all my clothing.”*

Sure and certain **judgment** will come to Satan, and to all those who **follow** him. They have worked **against** the King of kings and Lord of lords. They have **rejected** His gifts, and have **mocked** our Savior and His people. They will be **judged** by the one pictured here as riding on a white horse. The Psalmist said, He will *“**smash** them with an iron rod, and **break** them to pieces like pottery.”* But at the same time, those who are **with** the rider on the white horse are **safe** forever.

On earth there will always be **some** people who refuse to **honor** Jesus, and they will be **judged**. But there will always be some who are **believers** in Jesus **too**, and by the grace of God, **they** will be heirs of **heaven**. Because Jesus **rose** on Easter morning, we will **also** rise from death, and we’ll **join** the angels in **praising** our gracious Savior. Every voice will join together to **praise** the rider on the white horse, who used His power to **save** us - **cleansing** us with His blood, and **covering** us with His righteousness.

That **confidence** takes away any **fear** that we might have of **death**. Sin and guilt can't **harm** us. There is no **hopelessness** - no **wondering** - because we **know** that when our soul leaves our body, it will enter into a life of inexpressible **joy**. Our soul will be at **home** in heaven, in the presence of **Jesus** - our **victorious** warrior - the **King** of kings and Lord of lords. And we **also** know that when Jesus **returns again** to the earth on the Last Day, He will raise our **bodies** from the grave, and we will live **with Him** - body **and** soul - in **love** and **peace** and **joy** forever. Jesus **lives**, the **Victory** is **won**. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Precious Savior Jesus Christ, we thank and praise You that by Your **suffering** on the cross You endured the very agony of **hell** for us, and that by Your **death** You **reconciled** us to God. But on **this** day, we especially thank and praise You for Your **resurrection** from the dead, because it **proves** that You are God's **Son**, and it **seals** Your sacrifice as the **full payment** for our sins. May we never stop **praising** You with our hearts and lips, for everything that You have so graciously **done** for our salvation.

Ever-living Lord, as You were raised up and **glorified** in Your body, raise us up by the Holy Spirit, to **trust** You with all our hearts, and to **serve** You in godliness all our days. Fill our hearts with **joy** as we look with longing to the day of Your glorious **reappearing**, when You will raise **all** the dead from their graves. **Comfort** us with the knowledge that on that day our bodies will **also** rise in the likeness of Your own **glorious** resurrection body.

Dear Savior, we need You every **moment** of every **day**. Be **with** us, and **shower** on us Your promised **grace** and **blessings**. As our exalted **Prophet**, instruct and encourage our hearts with the Gospel of **forgiveness**, and help us to **grow** in our faith and knowledge of **salvation**. As our exalted **High Priest**, **hear** us when we pray in Your name, and **intercede** at the Father's throne on our behalf. As our exalted **King**, **watch over** us day by day, **protecting** us from all danger, **guarding** and **keeping** us from all evil. Preserve us and all believers by granting us daily **repentance**, and renewal of **faith**.

O Jesus, our dear Friend, be at our side in **all** our troubles. Give us **strength** to bear them, and **wisdom** to overcome them. Grant us **grace** to endure every sorrow that comes our way, and **courage** to cope with every disappointment. You are the **help** of the helpless, who **lifts up** those who have fallen. Therefore, **comfort** and **relieve** us according to our individual needs. As we travel the hard

road of **suffering** and **sorrow**, may we learn to love You **more**, and to eagerly await the **treasures** You have reserved for us. All this we ask to the glory of Your name, our **risen** and **victorious** Savior, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

**The 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.**

**Hymn # 152 - "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"**

**I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head!**

**He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save.  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives to bless me with his love;  
He lives to plead for me above.  
He lives, my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.**

**He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with his eye.  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

**He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears.  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.**

**He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
He lives and loves me to the end.  
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

**He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death.  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring my safely there.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

**P:** Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

**Hymn #341 - "Crown Him With Many Crowns"**

**Crown him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing**

**Of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love -  
Behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his wond'ring eye  
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of heav'n,  
Enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown him with many crowns  
As thrones before him fall;  
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns  
For he is King of all.**