

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Easter 3 - April 18, 2021

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 #160 - *"This Joyful Eastertide"***

**This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

**Death's flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver.  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

**My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number.  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

### **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: Acts 4:8-12**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” (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 sal’vation.**

**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 sal’vation.**

**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 be’ginning,  
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: 1 John 1:1 - 2:2**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life - the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us. My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia.

**Gospel: Luke 24:36-49**

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. He took it and ate in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (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 #147 - *“Like the Golden Sun Ascending”***

**Like the golden sun ascending,  
Breaking through the gloom of night,  
On the earth its glory spending  
So that darkness takes to flight,  
Thus my Jesus from the grave  
And death’s dismal, dreadful cave  
Rose triumphant Easter morning  
At the early purple dawning.**

**Thanks to you, O Christ victorious!  
Thanks to you, O Lord of Life!  
Death has now no power o’er us,  
You have conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because you did arise  
And have opened paradise!  
None can fully sing the glory  
Of the resurrection story.**

**You have died for my transgression;  
All my sins on you were laid.  
You have won for me salvation;  
On the cross my debt was paid.  
From the grave I shall arise  
And shall meet you in the skies.  
Death itself is transitory;  
I shall lift my head in glory.**

**Grant me grace, O blessed Savior,  
And your Holy Spirit send  
That my life and my behavior  
May be pleasing to the end,  
That I may not fall again  
Into death’s grim pit and pain,  
Whence by grace you have retrieved me  
And from which you have relieved me.**

**For the joy your advent gave me,  
For your gospel’s great reward,**

**For your baptism which has saved me,  
For your supper and your Word,  
For your death, the bitter scorn,  
For your resurrection morn:  
Lord, I thank you and extol you,  
And in heav'n I shall behold you.**

**The Sermon:      Luke 24:36-49  
                          “A Part Of God’s Plan”**

In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, God tells us, “*Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse.*” Those are some very **haunting** words - words which must have **echoed** again and again in the minds of Jesus’ **disciples** on the day which is sometimes called Holy Saturday - the day **before** Easter. Jesus was the person whom they had thought was their **Lord** and **Messiah**. But, He had **died** on a **wooden cross** - a **tree** - a sure sign from the Scriptures that He had died under the **curse** of the Almighty God. Jesus was **dead** and **buried**, and it seemed as if all their **hopes** had been **ruined**. As one of the **Emmaus** disciples said just **prior** to our text, “*We had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel.*” But how could that be **possible**, since He had died under the **curse** of God?

This **Jesus** is the **same** man who had asked His Father to forgive **us**, but if He died under God’s **curse**, why should God even pay any **attention** to Him? We put all of our **hope** for **forgiveness** and **eternal life** in **Jesus**, but if the last view we have of Him is a man dying under a divine **curse**, what **good** is that hope? **Easter** provides us with the **answer** to those questions. Easter is **not** about bunnies and eggs - or spring weather, blooming flowers, and green grass. Easter is about answering the **questions** that the **followers** of Jesus were asking while He was **lying** in the tomb. And they are questions which people are **still** asking today. Is Jesus our **Lord** and **Savior**? Did God the Father answer the **prayers** of Jesus? Do we really have the **forgiveness of sins** and **eternal life**? The answer is **yes** to **all** of those questions. Jesus **died** and **rose** again. He is the **Son of God**, our **Lord** and our **Savior**. And because Jesus accomplished **everything** the Heavenly Father had given Him to do in His plan of **salvation**, the Father **has** forgiven us, and we **have** eternal life in heaven. It was all **A Part Of God’s Plan**.

At the time of our text, the passage which I just quoted from the Book of Deuteronomy had already been a part of the **foundation** of Jewish **law** for centuries, and in our text for today Jesus **Himself** said, “*Everything must be*

*fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.*” So, there should have been **no doubt** in anyone’s mind that Jesus **had to die** on a **cross** - that He **had to be cursed** by God Almighty. But that just doesn’t make any **sense** to us. How could something so **unthinkable** ever happen at **all** - **especially** to someone like **Jesus**?

We know that the **Sanhedrin** had brought the accusation of **blasphemy** against Jesus. And we know that the Roman **governor**, Pontius Pilate, had **condemned** Christ to be **crucified** - to die on a man-made **tree**. But **why** should a good man like **Jesus** have to die **like that**? Crucifixion was reserved for the very **worst** of criminals. What was the terrible **crime** which **Jesus** had committed? Had He led some kind of blood-soaked **revolution** through the streets of Jerusalem? Had He ever even raised His **hand** to **harm** someone? Wasn’t the life of Jesus always filled with **helping** and **healing** others? After all, even **Pilate** - the man who signed the **death warrant** for Jesus - openly proclaimed to the crowd, *“I find no basis for a charge against Him.”*

History has recorded the crucifixion of Jesus as one of the greatest **miscarriages** of justice of all time. But what was an **injustice** on the **human** level was actually the **fulfillment** of **divine** justice. **Why** did Jesus Christ have to die under a **curse**? The answer is found in **you** and **me**. Jesus was the **Sin-bearer** for all people, and His **death** was the condemnation which was reserved for **all** the members of the human race. Jesus had taken **our** guilt and **our** curse on Himself. And so it was only **right** that His death should **conform** to the terrible verdict found in the Book of Deuteronomy. **Our** sins and **our** guilt, were the **cause** of the **curse** which **Jesus** received, as He suffered and died on the **tree** of the **cross**.

But on Easter Sunday, the Almighty Father **overturned** all the **human** verdicts against **Jesus**, and He **reversed** the sentence of death. Jesus had been sentenced and executed for **blasphemy**. But He wasn’t **guilty** of blasphemy. Every word He had spoken was **true**. He truly **was** and **is** the long-awaited **Messiah**, and the Son of **God**. The court system of the **Jews** and the **Romans** had been **wrong**, and the courtroom of the Almighty **Father** found Jesus to be **innocent** of all the accusations which had been made against Him.

This was definitely a **victory** for Jesus, but it was also much **more**. This was a victory for every member of the **human race**. The curse of sin against **all** people had been brought to its **conclusion**. And once that conclusion had been **reached** - once Jesus had declared, *“It is finished”* - the **curse** no longer hung over us. The penalty had been paid in **full** by Jesus’ death on a tree, and the **curse** was

completely removed.

It's Jesus' **resurrection** from the dead that **assures** us of all these truths. The Bible tells us, "*(Jesus Christ) was declared with power to be the **Son of God** by His **resurrection** from the dead.*" Once or twice, when Jesus' enemies demanded that He give them some kind of a **sign** that He really had been sent from **God**, He told them the sign would be the sign of the Prophet **Jonah**. "*Just as **Jonah** was in the belly of the huge fish for **three** days and **three** nights, so the **Son of Man** will be **three** days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*" Jesus clearly told them that three days after His **death**, He would **rise** again. And He **did**. That's what makes Easter a day which is worthy of great **celebration**.

But celebration is only **part** of what the whole Easter Season is about. When Jesus came and stood among His disciples again, they **weren't** celebrating - they were **hiding** behind locked doors. We're told, "*They were **terrified** and **frightened** and thought they were looking at a **ghost**.*" How **wonderful** it is, that Jesus **immediately** took **away** that terror and fear - by showing them His **hands** and **feet** - and by opening their **minds** to **understand** the Scriptures. Very soon Jesus was going to be sending them on a **mission** - a mission that has lasted for **2,000** years - a mission to spread the account of Jesus' **resurrection** to **all** people. You see, it wasn't only Jesus' **disciples** who were supposed to know why Jesus' resurrection is so **important**. This is news which is meant for **all** people.

So, Jesus sent His **disciples** out to the ends of the earth, to **proclaim** the news of the **resurrection** and its **meaning** for the whole human race - and they **went**. Men like Peter, Paul, and Thomas traveled to the most **distant** parts of the known world, in order to proclaim the **Good News** to those who had not yet **heard** it. As time went on, **other missionaries** would cross **oceans** and **mountain** ranges to find people who had not yet learned that their sins have been **forgiven** through Jesus. Over the centuries, great **hardships** have been suffered - and lives and fortunes have been **sacrificed** - so that the news of the **resurrection** would be spread from **Jerusalem** to **all** nations - even to nations which Jesus' **disciples** could never have **dreamed** of, as this mission **began**.

And **now** that mission has become **ours**. **We** are the ones who are to **follow** in the footsteps of the prophets and apostles. **We** are to go out into the world, to call sinners to **repentance**, and to assure them of the **forgiveness** of all their sins through **Jesus**. Whether they are **frightened**, or **burdened**, or **confused** - whether they're in search of the **truth** - whether they're **not** taking Jesus **seriously**, or are refusing to **acknowledge** their sins - we can bring them **comfort** and **peace** by



telling them that **Jesus has risen** from the dead, to provide **forgiveness** and **eternal life** for **all** people. And, we can **also** take that comfort for **ourselves** whenever the sins **we** have committed threaten to **haunt** us and **condemn** us.

This year the season of Lent lasted for 40 days, as it does **every** year. It was a **dark** time - a time for **contemplation** - a time to focus our attention on our **sins**, and the **curse** which they bring. But everything is **different** on Easter morning, with the light of **life** streaming from the **empty** tomb, and with the risen Savior's **greeting**, "*Peace be with you!*" Jesus' resurrection has **destroyed** the curse of death for us. Pass that Good News on to **everybody**. Through the **suffering, death,** and **resurrection** of Jesus from the dead, we are eternally **assured** that the Father has **forgiven** us for all of our sins. It was all **A Part Of His Plan**. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

O Lord, in these last days Your righteous acts have been **revealed** to us, whom You have made **stewards** of the Word of Truth, the message of **Salvation**. Alas, Lord, we are **unprofitable** stewards. We ask You to **forgive** our sluggishness to hear and learn Your Word, and for our lack of **diligence** in the use of the Means of Grace. Be **merciful** to us, and **pardon** us for the **squandering** of our time, for the **misapplication** of our talents, and for our **miserliness** with our treasures. Forgive us for our **callousness** toward the plight of lost souls, for our **hoarding** of the riches of Your saving love, and for our **slowness** to proclaim Your salvation to every creature.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to **bleed** and to **die** for all our sins. **Wash away** all our iniquity through His blood, and **cleanse** us from our sin. Create in us a **pure** heart, O God, and renew a **steadfast** spirit within us. Restore to us the **joy** of Your salvation, and grant us a **willing spirit** to sustain us. **Strengthen** us with power through Your Holy Spirit in our inner being. **Root** us and **establish** us in love.

Holy Spirit, today we **recognize** Your special work among us as **individuals**, and as a **congregation**. We thank You for **calling** us to be believers, for **strengthening** our faith, and for bringing us **together** for worship. We thank You for Your **Word** which shows us the way to heaven, and we ask You to make that precious Word more and more a **guide** for our everyday lifestyles. Use our congregation as a **carrier** of Your Word, so that through **us**, You can continue to work in many **others**. Produce in our lives such **fruits** as love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Produce those gifts in such **abundance** that it will be evident to others that You have made Your home in our

**hearts, and in our congregation.**

Lord Jesus, make us bold, strong, courageous, and fearless disciples, who are always eager to **spread** the Gospel to others. 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 #354 - *"Lamb of God, We Fall Before You"***

**Lamb of God, we fall before you,  
Humbly trusting in your cross.  
Our great joy is to adore you;  
All things else are only dross.**

**Jesus is the perfect Savior,  
Only source of all that's good;  
Ev'ry grace and ev'ry favor  
Come to us through Jesus' blood.**

**Jesus gives us true repentance  
By his Spirit sent from heav'n,  
Whispers this assuring sentence,  
"All your sins are now forgiv'n."**

**Faith he grants us to believe it,  
Grateful hearts his love to prize;  
Want we wisdom? He must give it,  
Hearing ears and seeing eyes.**

**Jesus gives us pure affections,  
Wills to do what he requires,  
Makes us follow his directions,  
And what he commands, inspires.**

**All our prayers and all our praises,  
Rightly offered in his name -  
He that asks for them is Jesus;  
He that answers is the same.**

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 #254 - *"The Day Full of Grace"***

**The day full of grace, which we behold  
Now gently to view ascending  
As God's gracious promises unfold,  
Good cheer to the saints is lending,  
And children of light in ev'ry land  
Rejoice that the night is ending.**

**How blest was that gracious midnight hour  
When God in our flesh was given.  
The Dayspring appeared in light and pow'r  
And spread o'er the darkened heaven.  
Then rose o'er the world that Sun divine  
Who gloom from our hearts has driven.**

**The daylight grew dim on Calvary**

**When Christ for the world was given,  
But on Easter morn our Lord broke free  
To give us new life from heaven.  
His Spirit now testifies in us  
That we are the Father's children.**

**With joy we draw near our fatherland,  
Our heavenly Father's dwelling,  
Where ready for us his mansions stand,  
Where heav'n with his saints is swelling,  
And there we shall walk in endless light,  
Forever his praises telling.**