



Resurrection of Our Lord

Order of Worship for streaming service during COVID-19

April 12, 2020

11:00 am



about today's service

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

P: Presiding Minister C: Congregation L: Lector

+ Gathering +

We gather together to praise God and receive God's love.

Welcome Pastor Liz Frey

Prelude: "The Reason" Arr. by Dan Galbraith
FaithX praise band (video)

Announcements Pastor Liz Frey

Confession and Forgiveness Pastor Liz Frey

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"
(video with words – ELW 365)

EASTER HYMN

- 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!**
- 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!**
- 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!**

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

Easter Greeting

Pastor Liz Frey

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Liz Frey

P: 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.

C: Amen.

+ Word +

We listen to the story of God's mighty acts for the sake of God's people.

Children's Message

Pastor John Brock

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Steve Kauffman

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "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

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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."

L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 Steve Kauffman

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.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Pastor Jack Horner

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10 Pastor Jack Horner

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.**

Sermon Pastor Jack Horner

Solo: "See, What a Morning" Getty/Townend
Michael Clements, soloist; Georgia Clements, piano

Prayers of Intercession Pastor Liz Frey

Each portion of the prayer ends:

P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **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.**

Passing of Easter Peace

+ Sending +

We have heard the Word of God and offered our gifts. Now we are sent out, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be God's people in the world.

Blessing

P: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

Pastor Liz Frey

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Toccatà"

Charles-Marie Widor

(video)

United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.

Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia!

worship leaders

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Children's Message: The Rev. John H. Brock

Musician/Cantor: H. Timothy Koch

Lector: Steve Kauffman

Audio Visual: Jon Lobaugh, Danelle Andrews

Bulletin Artwork: Trinity Staff

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"Easter: What's The Big Deal?"

The Reverend Dr. Jack M. Horner, Jr.

Sermon Points to Ponder

Don't just listen to the Sermon...Ponder how you can live it!

Use these questions as a starting point to dive deeper into the sermon each week. Can be used individually, with family and friends, or with your Lifegroup!

1. This Easter is obviously different. Think about favorite Easter memory. What made it special?
2. In Matthew's gospel the angel sits on the rolled away stone. What do you think that symbolizes if anything?
3. Jesus is identified as the Crucified One. What does that mean to you?
4. The women experienced fear and great joy. Usually we think of those as opposites. Are they always? Think of a time you experienced both.
5. How can you become a messenger, sharing your experience of Jesus?
6. How can you be the church where you are?

Grace and peace be to you from our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Well I want to welcome our members and friends from all over the country to this our streaming Easter service here at Trinity, Camp Hill in Pennsylvania. And I want to thank you for your support you have given us through this last month and one-half!

I think you will agree with me that this Easter has been like no other that I can even remember, and it is certainly not even the Easter that I expected two months ago. What I was expecting was we were going to have a big blow-out service, actually six blow-out services and by the time I preached this sermon I would have had to been able to practice five more times. It would have been a big deal with pomp and circumstance, with

great music, and of course, the celebration of Holy Communion.

We would have prepared ourselves to receive thousands of people as they all crammed together and worshipped the risen Christ. At least that's the way that it should be. But today the faithful are huddled away in homes with social distancing and we find ourselves living in fear, anxiety, disbelief, maybe frustration, and of course a deep desire to get back to normal.

Sometimes Easter is not what you expect.

But it got me thinking about that very first Easter, there you had disciples huddled in fear. If they went outside, they probably covered their faces and were not recognizable. They were doing their own social distancing in the upper room. Not because of a pandemic, but because of fear of the authorities who had crucified Jesus and maybe they would now be coming after them.

After all, Jesus had been betrayed, crucified and maybe those disciples were now going to be the next in line to be arrested and tried. That very first Easter fear and disbelief was the emotional state of the followers of Jesus.

And the women who went to the tomb were no different and the events of that morning as they set out was not what they expected as well. They probably thought they were going to have a nice quiet morning and instead they are confronted with an earthquake, they find guards that are paralyzed, the heavens opened, the stone is rolled away and an angel is sitting on it. Not the morning that they expected!

But then the angel speaks a message, an announcement to them that that morning would change their world and their lives forever. And their fear would be replaced by faith. You know fear can overwhelm us, it can take all of our attention, it can even paralyze us, that's why we use phrases such as we're "Frozen with Fear," or "Trapped by Fear."

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But the message of the angel **begins** with an exorcism; a casting out, a removal of fear. "Do not be afraid," he says "I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, just as he said."

Now notice there is no royal title for Jesus given, no flowery religious language, no grandness that we would expect on such a holy awe-inspiring occasion.

Jesus is the crucified and risen One. The cross becomes his symbol. And the cross becomes the central message of the church's proclamation and a metaphor for its life and service. The cross with its images of self-sacrifice, forgiveness, hope, and salvation.

And the Bible doesn't ask us to take all of this on blind faith. Notice that the angel tells the women "Come and see the place where he lay." Notice, the women don't "see" the resurrection. Nobody does. The stone is rolled away not so that Jesus can get out of the tomb, but to let the women in. They are invited to come into that empty tomb to explore and to believe.

"See for yourself," the angel says. The resurrection is about seeing those mighty acts of God with our eyes of faith. Jesus wants us to use our minds and our hearts in thinking about our faith, and how we live out that faith in the world.

The Commands of God in the Bible give us not only information but also, they do something. They tell us not only what God wants from us, but also gives us the gifts and the strength to do them.

The angel commands the women to go and to share the resurrection with his disciples. Jesus equips them and us for that Easter proclamation. "Go, quickly and tell the disciples that he has been raised." And the women, who came to be the care givers of Jesus' broken body now become messengers of their resurrected Lord! Messengers of probably the most important message the world has ever known.

That in it of itself is shocking since women's testimony in first century Jewish courts was considered inadmissible. If the resurrection was faked by the disciples surely, they would have had made up male witnesses for the story to stick.

But all four gospels agree that on the major details and they make clear that the women were the first witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. **Because, quite frankly, that's what happened.** Recently Mary Magdalene was declared in the Roman Catholic Church "the Apostle to the Apostles" for her faithful sharing of the resurrection with believers.

The angel continues by telling the women that they will see Jesus in Galilee. Again, another modest detail of Matthew's gospel. But if you think about it, Galilee is where most of the disciples are from. It's home. They will see Jesus at their home. No choirs of angels, no sound of trumpets, no visions of glory. Just him, just Jesus. And that will be enough.

I know many of you have been going through a lot recently. Some of us have felt the sting of loss, or illness, or concern for family members who have been exposed to the virus. We've been saddened by the separation; both physical and emotional distancing that we have had to do. Plans and rites of passage for young people have had to be delayed or even cancelled. Some have suffered deaths in the family or friends only to put the mourning and the final farewell on hold to a later date.

And yet, all around us we see signs of life. Spring is here. The days are becoming longer, and we see signs of awakening, signs of hope. The birds sing, the sun brings warmth, the trees bud, the flowers burst from the ground giving life and color.

Families will check in on each other. Games will be played, grass will be mowed, online homework done, every Netflix movie will be watched. Food will be shared, and prayers will be said.

The big deal is there are signs of resurrection all around us! And sometimes Easter **is** what you

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expect. Christ **is** alive! And the Church remains the church whether it's gathered or scattered.

And so be the church brothers and sisters where you are. Serve those around you where you are. Love those around you where you are. Live and pray in the power and the promise of the resurrection where you are and rejoice. Because Jesus is risen. Alleluia! Amen.

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

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