



# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mark Johnson, President

Angela Pfennig, Organist

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## Easter Sunday Service – April 21, 2019

**The Opening Prayer by the Pastor** (*Congregation Please Rise*)

### The Easter Scripture Reading

**Job 19:23-27** "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! <sup>24</sup> That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! <sup>25</sup> For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*, that in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. *How* my heart yearns within me!"

### Hymn by the Congregation — 199

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!

**Pastor:** *In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Congregation:** Amen

**P:** *O Lord, open Thou my lips.*

**C:** **And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

**P:** *Hasten to save us, O God, our Strength.*

**C:** **Help us quickly, O Lord, our Rock.**

**P:** *The Lord is risen! Of this we sing:*

### A Hymn of Praise —188

1) Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!  
He is now the Living One;  
From the gloomy house of death

Forth the Conqueror has gone,  
Bright Forerunner to the skies  
Of His people, yet to rise.

2) Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,  
Life eternal waits for thee;  
Joined to Him, thy living Head,  
Where He is, thou, too, shalt be;  
With Himself, at His right hand,  
Victor over death shalt stand.

## **A Harmony of the Easter Story from the Gospels**

### **The First Lesson**

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

Very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away; for it was very large. Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Then they (the other women) went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you. He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" And they remembered His words. So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

## **A Hymn of Confidence in the Message of the Empty Tomb —200**

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
what comfort this sweet sentence give!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.

### **The Second Lesson**

Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, 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, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

## **A Hymn of Joy At This News —200**

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

### **The Third Lesson**

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

...Some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying,

"Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'  
"And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.

### **Our Continuing Song of Joy —732**

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! Christ has triumphed!"  
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 our 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!

### **The Fourth Lesson**

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up; if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

**Pastor:** *"Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it."*

**Congregation:** *(sung from the Supplement, page 14)*

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***  
***These words are written that you may believe***  
***That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.***  
***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**The Easter Sermon— "The Last Enemy"**

*(The sermon text is printed on the back page)*

**Hymn—205 (Red Hymnal)**

The day of resurrection, Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,  
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light  
And, lis'-tning to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph and all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

**The Prayers of the Day**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Pastor:** *The Lord be with you.*

**Congregation:** *(spoken)* **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**Congregation:** *(sung)* **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

**The Closing Sermon Hymn— 728**

Christ is living! Gone with sorrows! Tears and terror, be no more.  
Death and grave, you now are nothing; Christ is free of every pow'r.  
Why then seek the living Savior in the haunts of death and fear?  
Christ is risen! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.

For if Christ is not arisen there is nothing to believe  
Truth be told, He keeps the promise: "Since I live, you too shall live."  
Dust we are, to dust returning, but in Christ we are restored.  
Doubt dispelling, claim the triumph: Jesus is the living Lord!

Death is swallowed up in vict'ry; sin has lost its poison sting.  
Life will blossom from the grain soon, Christ the first fruits of the spring.  
For the sureness of salvation let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"  
Christ is risen! We are living! Spread the word of grace abroad.

**Silent Prayer**



## **THE SERMON TEXT**

<sup>ESV</sup> **(1 Corinthians 15:19-26)** *If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome**—To our visitors this morning we offer a warm welcome, together with our thanks for allowing us to share the message and joy of the empty tomb with you. Please introduce yourself to the Pastor if you are not already known to him, and join us again.

**Confirmation Class** —Parents and students please note that Confirmation Class returns to the normal time this week— Wednesdays at 6 pm. Midweek Bible Study resumes May 8.

**Delegate Conference** —We still have need of one more volunteer to represent our congregation at the upcoming West Central Delegate Conference in Rapid City, May 21-23. Transportation, food, and lodging are, of course, provided. Please speak to the Pastor, or to Chairman Mark Johnson if you would be willing and able to serve.

**Easter Flowers**—If you ordered Easter flowers, please feel free to take them home with you after the service this morning, or consider taking a plant to someone who might enjoy it—together with a reminder of the meaning and joy of this day.