**April 8, 2018**

**EASTER GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**GATHERING SONG** I Know that My Redeemer Lives (ELW 619, Vs. 1, 2, 8)

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, The fountain of living water,

The rock who gave us birth, Our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

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Let us come into the light, The revealing and healing light of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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God of grace and glory,

**you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus’ resurrection.**

**Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin.**

**Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new.**

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**Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin,**

**renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness,**

**through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

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Rejoice with all creation around God’s throne!

The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin,

restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace,

and humbles earthly pride.

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Jesus Christ loves you and + frees you from your sins by his blood.

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

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**

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection.

By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *This is My Beloved Son*

*(The reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**tHE lESSON:** **1 John 5:1-5**

A reading from *First John*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? (ELW p. 142)

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**The Gospel:**  Matthew 16:13-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (ELW 363, Vs. 1, 2, 5)

**NICENE CREED**

**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 pastor reads the introduction and ending; the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the resurrection of Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and help to the disillusioned. Restore the sick *(especially…)*. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn. Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

 The peace of Christ be with you always.

 **And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** This is the Feast (ELW p. 140)

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus
who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ who taught us to pray…

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The table of life is spread before you.
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.
**Thanks be to God.**

 **COMMUNION**

 *(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.

Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

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

**Sending Song** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (ELW 367, Vs., 1, 2, 4)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord.
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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