**April 29, 2018**

**EASTER GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**GATHERING SONG** Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing *(ELW 389) vs 1, 2, 5*

**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.*

--

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**

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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** *Stay with Us*

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

**tHE lESSON:** **Acts 1:6-11**

A reading from *Acts*

6So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

10While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL PROCLAMATION**

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:**  John 14:15-20

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

15”If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18”I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** When Morning Gilds the Skies *(ELW 853) vs, 1, 4, 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 life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the new baptized, Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land,

Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick *(especially…)*, Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and post-partum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to b as it is in heaven, Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

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** Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise  *(ELW 826) vs. 1, 4, 5*

*(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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