**April 15, 2018**

**EASTER GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**GATHERING SONG** Around You, O Lord Jesus (ELW 468)

**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**

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Unless a Grain of Wheat Falls*

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

**tHE lESSON:** **PSALM 22: 1-8, 19-24**

A reading from *the Psalms*

1My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

2O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

3Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. 4In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. 5To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

6But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. 7All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; 8“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

19But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! 20Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! 21Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

22I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: 23You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

*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:**  Mark 15:33-39

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”

36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” 37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** With High Delight Let Us Unite (ELW 368)

**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.*

Holy god, we pray for the church and its many expressions. Strengthen the National Youth Gathering planning team. Prepare the hearts and minds of the youth and adults who will experience your love this sum. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you gave us dominion over every living creature. Grant us wisdom to use our power to develop sustainable farming and housing practices. Slow down our rush to consume. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, walk with all refugees who leave their homes to move to safety. Protect them on their journey. Greet them with hospitality. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you heal us. For all who have not been granted the healing they desire and for all who cannot access the care they need, send social workers, doc tors, parish nurses, and other caregivers. Today we pray especially for *…*. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God our provider, you call us to give generously. Bless the finance and stewardship teams of this congregation. Make us joyful givers of the time, talents, and treasures you have first given us. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of our ancestors, in you we have our beginning and our end. We remember all the faithful departed. Enfold in a shield of peace all those who mourn. Hold them in your love. 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** *Alleluia, Jesus is Risen (ELW 377, vs. 1, 2, 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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