

Peace Lutheran Church  
**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**  
March 31, 2024 6:00 AM

*As worshippers enter the darkened sanctuary, the paschal candle gives light to the darkness. This "Easter candle" reminds us that death and grave had no hold on Jesus. He emerged alive from the tomb! We gather to celebrate His victorious resurrection.*

**SOLO** "Were You There"

**THE OPENING RESPONSES:** *Spoken from the entrance to the Sanctuary.*

L: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.  
*(John 20:1)*

C: **But when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.** *(Luke 24:3)*

L: They saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified." *(Mark 16:5-6)*

C: **He has risen! He is not here.** *(Mark 16:6)*

L: So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. *(Matthew 28:8)* Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:

C: **"I have seen the Lord!"** *(John 20:18)*

L: People of God, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

C: **He is not here; for He has risen!"**

L: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But...

C: **Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**  
*(1 Corinthians 15:56-57)*

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

**PROCESSIONAL**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

**LSB 457 v. 1-4**

### **THE EASTER INVOCATION**

- L: The stone has been rolled away! Alleluia!
- C: **The crucified is risen! Alleluia!**
- L: In His great mercy, God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *(1 Peter 1:3)*
- C: **For Christ must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** *(1 Corinthians 15:25-26)*
- L: God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him. *(Acts 2:24)*
- C: **Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."** *(John 11:25-26)*
- L: As we gather for worship on this day of the resurrection, we call on the name of the only living God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- L: Brothers and sisters in Christ: This morning we walk with the women to the garden graveyard, to the place that has transformed our world and our own life. This is where we meet the risen Lord Jesus, who was victorious over sin, death, and the devil. We come to Him now, confessing our sins and seeking His gracious forgiveness. With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins:
- C: **Forgive us Lord and have mercy upon us. Forgive our self-centered rebellion against You and our lack of love for others. Roll away the stone of sin and the hardness of our own hearts and lives.**
- L: Jesus has carried our sins to His own death. In your baptism your sinful nature was united to the death of Jesus and you were raised to new life. You are a new creation in Christ Jesus! Alleluia! In Jesus' name, and by the power of His resurrection, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen! We have been forgiven! We have been restored to new life in Christ! Alleluia!**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

**LSB 477 v. 1-3**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Exodus 15:1-11*

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,  
“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

“Pharaoh’s chariots and his host he cast into the sea,  
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries;  
you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;  
the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’

You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **BELL CHOIR**

### **EPISTLE**

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **ALLELUIA VERSE**

**LSB p.156**

### **GOSPEL**

*John 20:1-18*

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other

disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she 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 in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**SERMON HYMN**

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**LSB 461 v. 1-3, 8**

**SERMON**

"Echoes from the Tomb"

Pastor Dave Karolus

*John 20:1-18*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

### EASTER PRAYER OF JOY

- L: Lord God, Heavenly Father, thank You for taking the cross of Jesus Christ, Your Son, and turning His seeming defeat into victory by raising Him from the dead.
- C: You rolled the stone away so that we may live in the light and truth of His Easter victory.**
- L: Give to us joy, O Lord, that we may look to Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- C: Give to us the joy of the open tomb, O risen Lord!**
- L: God of all grace, Your care for us knows no limits. When we mourn, You comfort us; when we suffer, You strengthen us; when we are ill, You heal us and help us to endure. Hear our prayers for.... *(spoken prayers for those with special needs)* O Risen and ever-present Lord,
- C: Hear our prayer!**
- L: Give to us joy, O Lord, all the days of our life - the joy of forgiveness, life and salvation.
- C: And the joy of believing in Your resurrection victory. Amen!**

### 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.**

### CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- L: The celebration of the Lord's Supper is a gift from Christ to His church in order to strengthen our faith and grant us His grace. Because our participation in this sacrament is a proclamation of our common faith, and may be taken either to one's spiritual benefit or harm, guests who hold to a different confession of faith or have yet to complete Lutheran confirmation, are invited to come forward for a blessing rather than to receive the Supper. This can be done by crossing your hands in front of you as you come forward.

L: We pray: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of Your blessings of grace that come to us through faith in Him who defeated death and the grave, Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

#### **DISTRIBUTION & DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Bell Choir Selections

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

**LSB 525 v. 1-5**

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

**LSB 475 v.1-4**

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BENEDICTION**

L: For this purpose Christ came and for this purpose He died and was raised: to bring salvation to all. May the Lord who brought salvation to all through the cross and empty tomb bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace

C: **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” ***LSB 465 v.1***