

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day – April 4, 2021

PRELUDE – “The Trumpet Shall Sound” – George Fredrich Handel

CONFESSION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen**

THE READING: ROMANS 6:3-11

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

P: The LORD be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...Grant to us, LORD, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, your Son, may also live with him in the power of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit.

P: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: May the light of Christ rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

C: We are illumined by the brightness of his rising in glory.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let your light scatter the darkness,

C: and illumine your Church.

P: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of Christ our LORD. Amen.

HYMN #369 “CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY”

GREETING

P: The LORD is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: This is the day the LORD has made. Alleluia!

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 10:34-43

PSALM 118: 1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,**

and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;**

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;

here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**

and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;**

it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 16:1-8

The Gospel of the LORD. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

HYMN #366 "THE STRIFE IS O'ER THE BATTLE DONE"

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 PRAYERS

Response: "Your mercy is great."

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *The pastor offers the prayer.*

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

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...All powerful and ever-living God, in your Holy Supper we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #361 "THE DAY OF RESURRECTION"

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE - "ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!" – DICK TORRANS

✠ ✠ ✠

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WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

"God's purpose for St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church is to spread the Good News of Christ's love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond."

We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD...

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 10:34-43: *Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to the Gentiles just as it had to Jews.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11: *The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the risen Lord in the preaching of this faith.*

MARK 16:1-8: *The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Alleluia! I have seen the Lord. (John 20:18)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Risen Savior, come to us in the darkness of night and enlighten us with your saving light. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ron Fried, Ann Greensweig, Walt Lehr, Ken Ortwein, Candace Robinson, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat
Other concerns:

Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in "acute care" situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Maggie Fried
GREETERS	Roger & Gloria Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...In Celebration of the Risen Lord.

BULLETINS...by Roger & Edie Knappenberger in memory of Hattie E. Smith.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill & Kathy Exner in memory of Loved Ones.

COMMUNION WINE & BREAD...by Ron & Carol Stoudt

LOOKING AHEAD

MON. APRIL 5 – 7 – 8 PM 7 – 8 PM Girl Scouts.

THUR. APRIL 8 – 6:30 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Mtg.

SUN. APRIL 11 – 10:30 AM 2ND Sunday of Easter.

MON. APRIL 12 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

SPONSOR CHARTS...There are still many open dates on the charts to sponsor the weekly gifts to the church – Bulletins, Sanctuary Lamp Candle, Wine & Bread, etc. Your sponsorship helps defray the costs of these items. Simply sign the chart and a payment envelope will be sent to you the week of your sponsorship.

If you have an email address, please notify the church office so it can be added to the group list and you can be included when church information is sent out.

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UPDATE ON BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY

We are still collecting detergent for the Pantry. There is an increased demand and they are requesting 100 bottles for our month, which is September. They can be left at the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. They can also be placed in the Narthex.

In addition, the most needed items at the Pantry right now are:

Meat helpers (especially tuna helper)	
Toilet Paper	Non-sugar cereals
Canned Pasta	Tooth Brushes
Deodorant	Body Wash

You are always welcome to bring these items to church, or if it is more convenient, they can be brought directly to the Pantry on Wednesdays from 9 – 10 AM. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

We also have a need for someone to organize donations of furniture/appliances. This only involves phone calls/emails – no physical pick up or delivery. We receive calls to donate these things sometimes and there is always someone who needs that item. We just need someone to make the connections of giver to receiver.

ABOUT EASTER.....

The celebration of the resurrection of Christ is the “queen of feasts” of the church year. All other days and feasts of the Christian year focus on this day, for it is this reason Christ came into the world: to die and be raised that sin and death be destroyed.

The origin of the word Easter is disputed, but it probably relates to the fact that the sun rises in the East. The original name for the Resurrection celebration was *Pasch* (pronounced PAHSK), from Greek and Hebrew words meaning “passing through,” referring to the Israelites rescue from bondage when the avenging angel passed over their homes; the Israelites passage through the Red Sea; and Jesus’ passage through death to new life.

The Resurrection of Christ has been celebrated as a distinct festival since the early 2nd century (100 AD); it was the first festival in the church year. The earliest observance of Easter was at the Easter Vigil, celebrated on Easter Eve.

Easter celebrates an event so great that it cannot be limited to one day. Thus, Easter consists of fifty days, a “week of weeks” (a period originally known as the *Pentecost*, from the Greek meaning “fifty”). Since the early Church, several practices have marked the fifty days: kneeling was prohibited on Sundays of Easter (because standing is the posture of resurrection), fasting was prohibited (fasting is for Lent and Holy Week, but Easter is for feasting), and “Alleluia” was restored to the liturgy on Easter as a profound expression of joy in the Resurrection.

Indeed, today is the day Jesus Christ rose from the darkness of the grave to new life. Today is the day when the Church celebrates its birth from the waters of baptism and its new life in the Holy Supper. Though suffering, injustice, and sin continue to mark the world in which we live, the Christian community goes forth from font and table with Christ’s mission to heal, liberate, and forgive. In the Fifty Days of Easter rejoicing, the church asks the question: How does our baptism send us forth in joyful service to the world?

LESSONS

Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Acts 10:34-43 – 1st Lesson

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about

doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 – 2nd Lesson

¹⁵Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters,* of the good news* that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters* at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.* ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Mark 16:1-8 - Gospel

¹⁶When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day ✠
April 4, 2021

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love, responding,

"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve. Assure them of your promises. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ron, Ann, Walt, Ken, Candace, Jerry, Sue, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill Blue Church with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.

A: Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: “your mercy endures forever!”. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.