

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16, 2017



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

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INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Go to Dark Gethsemane" *LSB 436*

**Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

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OPENING GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–8

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back — it was very large.

HYMN "Go to Dark Gethsemane" *LSB 436*

**Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.**

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And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But

go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”LSB 457 Δ

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 118:1, 24

P: All praise to God the Father —

C: who raised His Son in victory.

P: All praise to Jesus, God’s Son, risen from the dead —

C: our living and reigning King.

P: All praise to God the Holy Spirit —

C: who has worked in us a living hope in the resurrection.

P: The stone has been rolled away! Alleluia!

C: The crucified One is risen! Alleluia!

P: He has conquered death by the cross!

C: He has come out of the tomb!

P: Easter proves it: His every word and His every deed are absolute truth.

C: Every promise He has made He will fulfill. He will restore His broken people. He will raise us and make us whole again.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day that the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

INTROIT

Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18

P: The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation;

C: Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

P: You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.

C: You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

P: The LORD will reign forever and ever.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

P: As we gather on this Easter day, we're drawn back to that first Easter early in the morning when the women walked to the tomb burdened by grief, hopelessness, and uncertainty. They would soon be awakened by the angels' presence and words, and the surprise of light and true life found in the empty tomb. As Scripture still speaks to us today in our times of grief, hopelessness, and uncertainty, we also encounter the light and true life of our Lord through His Word pointing to, centered on, and fulfilled in our Savior Jesus Christ. In Exodus, we hear Israel cry out to the Lord for rescue. In 1 Corinthians, Paul reminds the people then and us now of Christ's resurrection witnessed by more than five hundred people. In the Holy Gospel, we hear again how Mary Magdalene came in darkness to the tomb and found the surprise of the risen Savior.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 14:10–15:1

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said

to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." ¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." ¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that

had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses. ¹ 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:1–18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ 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. ² 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." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" — and that He had said these things to her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "He's Risen, He's Risen" *LSB 480* Δ

SERMON

CATECHISM

1 Corinthians 15:17; Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

P: St. Paul writes, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." Because of this, Easter morning delivers the joyous truth that Christ has been raised, and God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in His work accomplished for us.

C: I believe 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.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Before we approach the Table of our Lord to receive Him in His victory for us, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: With humble and sincere hearts, we acknowledge before You, O Lord, that we are not the people we ought to be. We have sinned against You and against one another in words and deeds and inaction. We confess these sins to You and plead for Your mercy through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us by Your Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

P: Easter changes everything. It is the world's new reality. Still, there are times when we live as if Easter were only a wish. We live too often as if brokenness were the only reality. We live as if the stone had not been rolled away.

C: Lord God, the Easter reality is all around us. And yet, in spite of the truth of the resurrection, we so often live trapped in brokenness. We are defeated by Satan's temptations, deceived by the world's false hope and lies, and worn down by the battle against our own sinful flesh. Forgive us and renew us, Lord.

P: Easter declares the great truth: the victory over Satan, the world, and our own flesh has been won. Jesus Christ who died for you has risen. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, our enemies of sin and death have been eternally conquered. You are forgiven from every failure and every sin. Because brokenness and death could not hold Jesus, you are made whole. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, it is my joy and privilege to proclaim the Easter truth and daily joy that you are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: 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, for Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN RESPONSE "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LSB 633

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side.
Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!**

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If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" LSB 469
"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done" LSB 464

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: This is the day that the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

P: Bless we the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Gracious God, by this Holy Communion, You have given us a foretaste of Your eternal kingdom, where death will have been defeated, where there will be no more crying or pain or mourning, and where all the faithful will be resurrected in Christ. For this glimpse of what You have in store for all creation, we give You thanks and praise. We ask that by Your Holy Spirit, our lives would show forth glimpses of Your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord, who hears the cries of all who mourn, bless you and keep you. The Lord, who raised Jesus from the grave as the firstfruit of His

new creation, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord, who calls you to take hold of that which is truly life and to look up and see His bountiful grace, mercy, and forgiveness, look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia” ***LSB 463***

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK— (April 16-23, 2017)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 6:30am & 9:00am; Easter Breakfast 7:30-8:30am

Monday: Board of Education, 4:00pm; Church Council, 6:30pm

Wednesday: Bible Study, 8:30am; Quilters, 9:30am; Confirmation Class (2nd year), 5:00pm; Confirmation Class (1st year), 6:00pm; Youth Group, 6:00-8:00pm

Thursday: Worship/HC, 6:30pm

Saturday: Spring Clean-up, 9:00am

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Christian Ed, 10:30am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE (Week ending 4/9/17)

General & Building Funds: \$4726.49; Blessings: \$32.23; Jews for Jesus: 410.00; Lent: \$687.00; Memorial: \$125.00

Attendance: Thursday: 62; Sunday: 152

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service.

Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

EASTER FLOWERS – Feel free to take your Easter arrangements home with you following the 9:00 service. Thank you to all who provided flowers to beautify the sanctuary.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO? Spring is here and it's that time of year for our annual Spring Clean-up, Saturday, April 22, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Lunch will be served. If you can't make it in the morning please come in the afternoon or anytime during office hours. All help is appreciated!

SPRING VOTERS' MEETING will be held on Sunday, April 30 at 10:30am in the fellowship hall.

SAVE THE DATE – The Hope Life Center banquet will be held on Monday, April 24. If you have plans to attend please speak with Sandi Michaelis so that the proper number of tables can be reserved.

On behalf of the board of directors of **GREATER WAUSAU CHRISTIAN SERVICES**, I would like to thank all the members of our congregation for their continued support of the organization. As many of you know, GWCS maintains ministries at the Marathon County Jail, the Juvenile Detention Center and several nursing homes. What you may not know is that the organization's director, Ray Slatton, serves as a chaplain for our local law enforcement. Through your support of the organization, Ray was able to minister to officers following the terrible events of March 22. If you have questions about GWCS or would like to support the group as a volunteer or through a donation, please contact Brian Otten.

LWML HUMAN CARE INGATHERING for April is for Little Lambs Daycare. Items needed are: bibs, burp cloths, wash cloths, dish cloths

CLC BLOOD DRIVE: Have you ever thought of donating blood as being a good steward of your time and talent? For those of you that are physically able, I urge you to thank the Lord for your good health by donating blood on Wednesday, April 26th from 3:30 - 6:15pm in the lower level of the church. Walk-ins are always welcome. Save a life, donate blood!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS may be found on the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall.

“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life

“The grace of God is more than a message: it’s a Person ... His love given in crucified sacrifice changes minds, claims imaginations, heals hearts, and saves souls. His power shown in resurrected presence assigns infinite value to all bodies and ultimate sanctity to every human life. Not only will He treat the culture, He will cure the people, because He has defeated the devil and hell itself.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – (www.lutheransforlife.org)*