



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1314 N. Michigan Street

Plymouth IN 46563

574-936-2903

Pastor Eric Ahlemeyer

✠ **Easter Service** ✠
The Resurrection of Our Lord
Calvary Lutheran Church—Plymouth, Indiana
April 12, 2020

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

For many of us Christmas is the highlight of the church year. Often the attention given to Christmas leaves Easter in its shadow, but Easter is the rightful “Queen of Feasts.” St. Paul would remind us today that without the resurrection our hope is empty and our faith is an illusion.

Today we come together to proclaim the Savior who “swallowed up death” and “to rejoice in His salvation.” We celebrate His victory and give witness to our faith that “in Christ we too shall be made alive!” The empty tomb testifies to the truth of Christ’s promises and to the trustworthiness of His Word.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE HYMN: #457 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

THE EASTER DIALOG [Adapted from Revelation 1:4-6; 7:9-12]

P: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, who was, and who is to come, from our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

C: **To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us kings and priests to serve God the Father—to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.**

P: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The uncountable multitude of nations and peoples stand before the Lamb upon His throne and cry out with a loud voice:

C: **Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

P: And all the angels around the throne worship Him saying:

C: **Blessing and honor, glory and thanksgiving, power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**

P: All the creatures of the earth shout:

C: **Amen.**

P: All the saints and angels shout:

C: **Amen.**

P: All the people of the Lamb shout:

C: **Amen.**

P: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #490 *“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”*

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.
- 5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

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

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.**

THE FIRST READING: Revelation 7:13-17

“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:19–26

If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

THE GOSPEL PROCESSION:

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #465 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (verses 1-2)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Now all the vault of heav’n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! | 2 | Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

THE EASTER GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #465 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (verses 3-4)

3	O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!	4	Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessèd sing: “Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God, All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
---	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

THE SERMON

“It’s All About Life”

Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer

THE NICENE CREED:

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

THE HYMN: #482 "This Joyful Eastertide"

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain. | 2 Death's flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver: Refrain. |
| Refrain Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen! | 3 My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number: |

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C: **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.

THE EASTER BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

 The Lord lift up His countenance on you and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

THE GREETING & THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN: #461 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

*For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
Job 19:25*