

Easter Festival Service

EASTER SUNDAY 2021

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS and pray that all who are with us today are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns and by an encouraging and warm welcome. Our worship service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ: forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven. The notes below may be helpful for your worship and time with us today. If you have questions, please ask! We are blessed to have you with us!

At this time our services are for people wearing masks and social distancing! Please know that even as we experience this awkwardness, your Good Shepherd holds you close to his heart and goes with you to share his love!

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

Hearing Assistance for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop. More information is available from an usher.



A wheelchair lift is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.

Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.



The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 4, 2021

Pre-Service Music

"In Christ Alone"
Arr. James Koerts
"Easter Hymn"
By Dan Kreger
"Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today"
By Richard Bradley
"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"
By Jeff Bennett

Order of Service

Opening Hymn

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Alleluia" Hymn 157

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!

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!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation has procured, Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia! Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Minster: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen, indeed!

Easter Dialogue

M: This is the day the Lord has made;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 118:24)

- M: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

 (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- C: Since we have been raised with Christ, we set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Colossians 3:1)
- M: Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (*Colossians 3:2-3*)
- C: When Christ, who is our life, appears, then we also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:4)
- M: Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3-4)
- C: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:1-2)
- M: But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1)
- C: He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)
- M: Christ is risen!
- C: He is risen, indeed!

Psalm 118



The LORD is my strength <u>and</u> my song; he has become my salvation.

"The LORD'S right hand is <u>lifted high</u>; the LORD'S right hand has done <u>mighty</u> things!"

I will not <u>die</u> but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you <u>an</u>swered me; you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the <u>cap</u>stone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous <u>in</u> our eyes.

This is the day the <u>LORD</u> has made; let us rejoice and be <u>glad</u> in it.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

The Word of God

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and always rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, 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.

Choir

"Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed"

- 1. How can it be the One who died has borne our sin through sacrifice, To conquer every sting of death? Sing, sing "Hallelujah!
- 2. For joy awakes as dawning light when Christ's disciples lift their eyes. Alive He stands, their friend and King: Christ, Christ He is risen!

Refrain
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh Sing "Hallelujah!"
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
"Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!"

- 3. Where doubt and darkness once had been, they saw Him and their hearts believed; But blessed are those who have not seen, yet sing "Hallelujah!"
- 4. Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the truth and pow'r of grace And pouring out their lives they gained life, life everlasting.

Refrain
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh Sing "Hallelujah!"
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:
"Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!"

5. The pow'r that raised Him from the grave now works in us to pow'rf'lly save; He frees our hearts to live His grace go, tell of His goodness. Refrain twice.

The Gospel of the Resurrection

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, 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. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

M: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed!

Explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, 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. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" **Hymn of the Day** (see pages 12 & 13) **Hymn 720**

Sermon

"I don't know." What's next? "I don't know." When will it be safe? "I don't know." What about the vaccine? Will it work on the variants? "I don't know." For how long? "I don't know." When can we ...? "I don't know." What about our jobs, our employers, our bills? "I don't know." What about our family, our country - will it ever be ...? Will we ever be ok? "I don't know."

"I don't know" can be a hard way to live, right? And that's so much the way we've been living for over a year now, and for some of you in some ways a whole lot longer. I don't know. Unsure, uncertain, afraid of what's coming. Unsure, uncertain, stressed: "What should I do?" Unsure, uncertain, riddled with guilt: "Did I do the right thing, what should I have done, how will I ever make it up to you?" Unsure, uncertain - afraid, stressed, riddled with guilt - "I don't know" can be a miserable way to live.

Unless Unless what? Unless we know something bigger and better than "I don't know." So let me tell you something bigger and better than "I don't know."

We go back to a time and a place filled with "I don't know." You're one of the disciples, one of the women who had been following Jesus, listening to him, watching him. You've heard Jesus promise amazing things: With Jesus, you have God with you, God for you, God looking out for you, listening to you. With Jesus, you don't need to worry, you don't need to be afraid. With Jesus, God will make life right for you. With Jesus, you will never die. Sounds impossible, doesn't it? But you've seen Jesus do the impossible. You've seen Jesus heal the sick, and cast out demons. You've seen Jesus feed thousands with just a pair of fish and five loaves of bread. You've even seen Jesus raise the dead.

But now, the last you've seen of Jesus, the last you've heard of Jesus is that he's dead, his body wrapped up, buried in a tomb, a hole in a hillside outside of Jerusalem. And what's going through your head? "I don't know." What's next? What do I do? "I don't know." What could I have done? What should I have done? "I don't know." What's going to happen to me, to us? "I don't know." What an awful place to be. We've had a taste of that awful, some of you maybe a bellyful of that awful this past year, haven't we?

But they didn't need to be there, did they? They didn't need to be stuck on "I don't know." They had heard Jesus promise the impossible; they had watched Jesus do the impossible. They had even heard Jesus tell them - not just once, but again and again - that he would raise himself back to life. They didn't need to be thinking of Jesus' body dead in the ground; they didn't need to be thinking "I don't know." They didn't need to be curled up afraid, stressed, riddled with guilt - "What's next? What do I do? How will I ever make things right?" They didn't need to be living "I don't know."

They could have been living "I know." I know Jesus can keep his promises. I know Jesus will keep his promises. I know Jesus can break the hold of death. I know Jesus will break the hold of death. And so, I know Jesus is coming back. I know Jesus will come back for me. I know there's nothing that can stop him. I know there's nothing that will stop him. I know Jesus can make this right. And I know Jesus will make all this right for God, for his people, for me. They didn't need to be living stressed, afraid, riddled with guilt. They didn't need to be living "I don't know." They could have been living "I know; I know Jesus."

And they wouldn't have been disappointed. Because Jesus did just as he said; he broke the power of death and raised himself from death to life. He came back for his disciples, for those dear women, and yes, he came back for you and for me.

That's right, we don't have to live the "I don't know" life - unsure, uncertain, afraid, stressed, riddled with guilt. Instead, we get an "I know" life with the bigger and better "I know" of the living Jesus. Jesus' body and bones aren't decayed and dusted in some hole in a hill outside of Jerusalem. God's Good Friday judgment on Jesus isn't hanging out there in some sort of unfinished limbo. We don't have to live wondering where we stand with God; we don't have to live wondering - unsure, uncertain - about the biggest questions of life and death. We get to live knowing the promise of Easter. On Easter Sunday morning, with the power of God, Jesus took back his life; he raised his body back to life just as he said he would. And just as the women and the disciples got to see it that first Easter morning, we get to know it - Jesus is alive! He can and he does keep his promises, no matter how impossible they seem.

What does that mean for us? What does that mean for the biggest question of life and death? With Jesus, we don't have to go through life wondering when Justice is going to make us pay. And Justice would have every reason to make us pay, wouldn't he? This past year we've bit and growled at people God gave us to comfort and encourage. We've darkened places and hearts God wants us to lighten and brighten. We've gotten so wrapped up in our "I don't know" that we've treated God like he doesn't matter. Treating God like "God doesn't matter" - what would Justice be for that crime? Payback - God treating you like you don't matter - here and forever in hell. But with Jesus, with Jesus raised back to life, we don't have to go through life

unsure, uncertain, expecting payback, seeing trouble as payback, wondering how, when, how much more we will have to pay to make up for what we have done. Why? Because on Good Friday, when Justice demanded payment, Jesus took our place and paid the price to satisfy Justice. How do we know? On Easter, by raising Jesus back to life, God made it public and official - Payment Accepted. The living Jesus is God's proof that Justice is satisfied. The living Jesus is God's proof that your sin and guilt are paid for, wiped out. The living Jesus is God's proof that you are forgiven full and free.

Think about that. With Jesus, you don't have to go through life unsure, uncertain, stressed, riddled with guilt, afraid, wondering whether God is smiling or scowling at you. With Jesus, you have God with you, God for you, God looking out for you, listening to you. With Jesus, you don't need to worry, you don't need to be afraid. The Jesus who healed the sick and cast out demons; the Jesus who fed the five thousand and more; the Jesus who brought the dead to life - that Jesus is alive and looking out for you to make life right for you.

Sometimes, we expect Jesus to do those same things for us, right here, right now. Sometimes we expect Jesus to make life right for us, right here, right now. But Jesus has something better for us, something better for you than comfort and convenience today. Jesus has life made right for you forever with him in heaven.

When God raised Jesus to life on Easter, God didn't raise Jesus to be the one and only raised back to life, the one and only raised to eternity. No, God raised Jesus as the first-fruits of those who die in this world. What does first-fruits imply? That God will raise more to life with Jesus. That just as God raised Jesus to life, God will raise those who are with Jesus to life.

What kind of life? Not just more time in this world. Not just more of the same. But life where the evil out there, the evil in here, is put in its place - gone. No more hurt or heartache, no more fear or stress, no more struggle to do right and be right, no more guilt because we're not. No more sickness, cancer, arthritis. No more death. Instead we get to look forward to life the way that it's supposed to be - a life filled with love and peace, a life where we bask in the glory of God, a life as a winner forever with God.

That's the bigger and better that Jesus has for you. We don't have to live stuck in the "I don't knows" of this life. We don't have to let the "I don't knows" of this life rule. We know something bigger and better. You know someone bigger and better. You know Jesus; he lives with life for you! Amen.

Hymn (see pages 14 & 15)

"In Christ Alone"

Hymn 752

Easter Prayer

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

C: For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

- M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.
- C: Take away our doubts and fears, and renew in us daily the joy of our salvation.
- M: Lord Jesus, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.
- C: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.
- M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.
- C: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
- M: As we journey through life,
- C: make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

- M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.
- C: For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! 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.

Closing Blessing

M: Go now into God's creation with bold confidence, living and declaring the truth that Jesus is alive. Go in the grace, the peace, and the strength of the Father who has raised the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives" Hymn 152

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!

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save. He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

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.

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.

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.

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.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death. He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring my safely there.

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!"

Postlude

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

By Kevin Hildebrand

Gathering of Offering

An offering can be an act of cheerful worship to thank God for his blessings and to support his ministry at St. John. We have an offering plate at the front of the church and an old wooden church in the back entry. The vast majority of our church and school ministry is made possible by our weekend offerings. May the Lord bless you! And may he use your gifts to be a blessing to many others!



If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code with your mobile device.

Service Participants

Preacher and Presiding Minister Organist Choir Director Choir Musicians Pastor Kevin Raddatz Mrs. Monica Wintrone Dr. Tim Samelson St. John Senior Choir Mr. Justin Wintrone, *trombone*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

501 West Park Avenue Libertyville, IL 60048 847-362-4424 Kevin Raddatz – Pastor Jon Woldt – Principal www.StJohnsLib.com

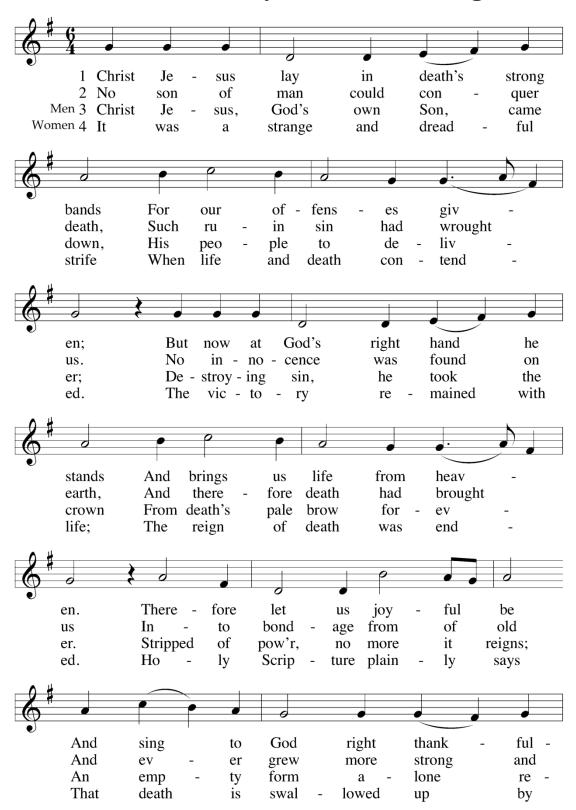
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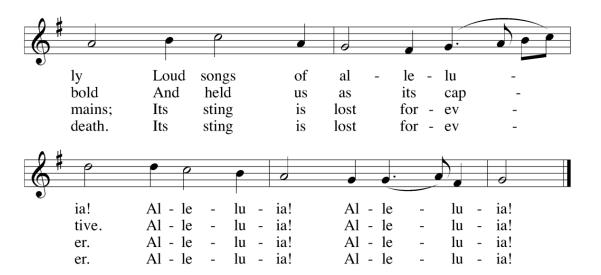
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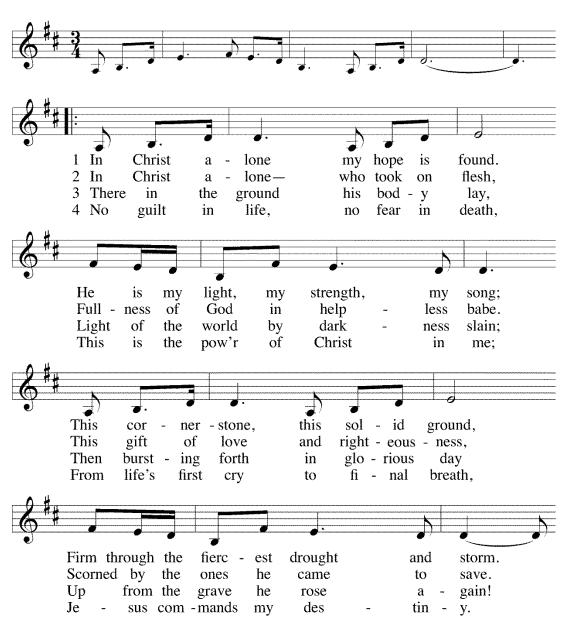
720 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands





- 5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
 Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree—
 So strong his love—to save us.
 See, his blood now marks our door;
 Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 So let us keep the festival
 To which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is himself the joy of all,
 The sun that warms and lights us.
 Now his grace to us imparts
 Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
 The night of sin is ended.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Christ Alone





St. John Classroom Renovation/Expansion Project Spring/Summer of 2021

God continues to bless St. John Lutheran School as we look toward the 2021-22 school year. In light of His blessings, we have plans to "take out the wall" that currently separates the 7-8 & 5-6 classrooms. This will allow us to have three large classrooms upstairs, new flooring professionally installed, and our "extra classroom" ready for a new class of students.



The project will need the following:

- † A significant number of volunteers are needed to help paint & move items.
 - ➤ If you are willing to help please email: Office@StJohnsLib.com
 - State your preference (painting or moving items)
 - Let us know when you are available in May, June and July
 - Note: We may start in the "extra classroom" in May
- † Donors are needed to help offset the overall cost of the project
 - ➤ Donations will be matched "dollar for dollar" from the St. John Facility Improvement Fund.
 - ➤ Donations can be given in various ways:
 - Online through our website <u>www.StJohnsLib.com</u>
 - On the "Giving Options" page, click "Give Online" and it will direct you to the donation options including this project.
 - Please make checks out to St. John (*on memo: Classroom Renovation Project*) or cash may be put in a marked envelope and placed in the offering plate, or mailed to St. John.
- † Questions?
 - ➤ Contact Principal Jon Woldt
 - Jon.Woldt@StJohnsLib.com or 920-266-6773 Cell