



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the “eighth day” of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and all of creation is renewed. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. The Christian community goes forth from font and table with Christ’s mission to heal, liberate, and forgive in a broken and hurting world. 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?

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P. (*boldly*) Christ is Risen!

C. (*boldly*) He is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN *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 you heav'nly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

P. (*boldly*) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. (*boldly*) He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain!

C. He gives us new life and hope through His resurrection!

P. God has claimed us as His own.

C. God has called us from our darkness into the light of His day.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast of Victory for Our God*

P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia

C. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb Who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia. 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, that we may live with Him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34–43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, Whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.³⁶ You know the message He sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — He is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how 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.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that He did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree;⁴⁰ but God raised Him on the third day and allowed Him to appear,⁴¹ not 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.⁴² He 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.⁴³ All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His mercy endures forever.

² Let Israel now proclaim,

"His mercy endures forever."

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

¹⁵ There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:

- ¹⁶ “The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!
The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”
- ¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ The LORD has punished me sorely,
but He did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**
- ²⁰ “This is the gate of the LORD;
he who is righteous may enter.”
- ²¹ **I will give thanks to You, for You answered me
and have become my salvation.**
- ²² The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ **This is the LORD’S doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- ²⁴ On this day the LORD has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives, since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ Who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
From the gloomy halls of death Christ, the Conqueror, has gone,
Bright forerunner to the skies of His people, yet to rise.

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

C. (*spoken*) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Easter morning began with confusion: the stone was moved and the tomb was empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus Himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So 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 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to Me, because 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.’ ” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that He had said these things to her.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! Praise Him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise Him in a nobler song, Cherubim of heav’nly birth.
Praise the victor King, Whose sway sin and death and hell obey.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

1. Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain:

Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy. Death’s fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

2. For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo, and in its conquest His might did show. *Refrain.*

3. Christ has arisen to set us free, Alleluia, to Him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. *Refrain.*

THE 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 worshipped 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.

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY *He Is Arisen, Glorious Word*

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
the gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus rose triumphantly,
and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious,
life is giving. He was dead, but now is living!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C. **Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over death and His glorious resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world and all those in need.

Lord of all, we are disappointed that we cannot gather together in one place for worship today. But even as we are separated from one another, we praise You for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, for our baptismal washing in His life, for Your presence come to us in the Word, and for the hope the gospel brings. God of life,
hear our prayer.

Lord of all, we praise You for the beauty of the natural world. Open our eyes to the first fruits of new life around us and inspire our gratitude and renew our commitment to stewardship of the earth. God of life,
hear our prayer.

Lord of all, in sorrow we acknowledge that war and violence still rages and that so many suffer injustice and oppression. Bring an end to conflict and division especially in the holy lands where Your Son walked. Renew leaders and advocates for peace with a commitment to the common good. God of life,
hear our prayer.

Lord of all, awaken hope and perseverance in all who need to hear a word of life this day: those who are hungry, anxious, or despairing. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by coronavirus, the overflow in hospitals and the exhaustion of medical staff. You comforted Mary Magdalene at the tomb by making known to her the risen Christ. Comfort all who grieve and who are ill (especially Bea, Merv, Emily, Dick, Angie, Shirley, Lynette, Duane, Wendy, and those sickened by the virus), that all may know the peace of Christ. God of life,
hear our prayer.

Lord of all, through Your Son You have shown us that death does not have the last word. Comfort all who mourn the death of loved ones, refresh us with the promise that You will destroy death and that with all the saints, we will be made alive forever in Christ. God of life,
hear our prayer.

We give praise and thanks to You, holy God. Through Jesus, Your Word made flesh, You give us forgiveness through the cross. Rekindle Your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory now and forever.

Amen.

EASTER BLESSING

P. May the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy,

Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain.*
2. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness, so our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain.*

DISMISSAL

P. Christ is Risen!

C. He is Risen indeed!

P. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God
Organist: Lou Knutson

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter
Reader: Sara Wollum

Many, many thanks to Terry Dybsetter, Lou Knutson, Sara Wollum and Josh Sumption who assisted this week. You are a blessing to our congregation.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>



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