

# EASTER SERVICE

April 12, 2020

## At Home Worship St. Paul's Lutheran Church Closter, New Jersey

### PRELUDES

*Christ lag in Todesbanden*

J. S. Bach

*In Joseph's Lovely Garden*

arr. Clarence Dickinson

*A Russian Easter Alleluia*

Harvey Gaul

Organist

Marjorie Vandervoort

### 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!

### INVOCATION AND EASTER GREETING

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor The Lord is risen!  
**Congregation He is risen indeed!**

Pastor Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**Congregation For He has done marvelous things.**

Pastor The Lord's right hand and his holy arm  
**Congregation Have gotten him the victory. Alleluia!**

Pastor Christ Jesus suffered and died.  
**Congregation He tasted both hell and death in our place on the cross.**

Pastor God the Father raised him from death, and gave him the name above every name  
**Congregation That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.**

## HYMN

### *The Lamb*

1. The **Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?**  
**Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!**

Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

2. The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heaven His praise to sing. Refrain

3. The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill.  
So still, His will on our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

4. He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness Refrain

5. He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong. 'Till ev'ry heart to him belong. Refrain

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Dear Heavenly Father, like Jesus' followers on that first Easter morning, we often forget the promises our Savior gives us.

**Congregation We forget who we are and whose we are.**

Pastor We live as if we have not been redeemed.

**Congregation Sometimes we live as if hope itself has died within us.**

Pastor Like Jesus' followers, we have denied Jesus.

**Congregation We have run away when we were needed the most.**

Pastor The resurrection of Jesus is Your great surprise for the world.

**Congregation**    **Though we deserve death, You give us life.**

Pastor                Though we deserve condemnation, You give us forgiveness.

**Congregation**    **Fill our lives with the hope and new life Jesus brings.**

Pastor                Through Your Holy Spirit, create a clean heart within us.

**Congregation**    **Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.**

Pastor                Help us to proclaim Your praise.

**Congregation**    **We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. He is our risen Lord, Brother, and Savior. Amen.**

Pastor:                God knows your sinful nature. He knows that you are dust. Yet, by Jesus' humble death He paid the price for your sins in full. In Holy Baptism, Jesus' atoning death and eternal life have touched your life. In the Lord's Supper, and in the Word, Jesus touches your life again.

**Congregation**    **Amen!**

Pastor                In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**    **Amen. We are forgiven. We are free. God gives us new life!**

Pastor                Share this good news with a hurting world. Christ is risen!

**Congregation**    **He is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

Pastor                All of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.

**Congregation**    **Alleluia.**

## COLLECT

Pastor                Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation**    **Amen.**

## THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON                Exodus 14:10 – 15:1

<sup>10</sup>        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.<sup>11</sup> 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?<sup>12</sup> 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."<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

<sup>15</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

<sup>19</sup> 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,<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.<sup>24</sup> 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,<sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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."<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Lector                      This is the Word of the Lord.  
Congregation            **Thanks be to God.**

#### **THE EPISTLE LESSON** 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,<sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you---unless you believed in vain.



*Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles 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,**

**Who 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,**

**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.**

**SERMON HYMN**    *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er; Lo, He sets in blood no more.
3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened Paradise.
4. Lives again our glorious King; Where, O Death, is now thy sting?  
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O Grave?
5. Soar we now where Christ has led, Following our exalted Head.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
6. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Praise to Thee by both be given!  
Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

**THE SERMON**

**HYMN**                      *Lord of the Dance*

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and danced on the earth.  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain    Dance then wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He,  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

2. I danced for the scribe and Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow Me  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came to me and the dance went on. *Refrain.*

3. I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me high;  
And they left Me there on a cross to die. *Refrain.*

4. I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I will go on. *Refrain.*
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die  
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. *Refrain*

## THE PRAYERS

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

**Congregation His love endures forever!**

Pastor Gracious Father, on this Easter Sunday we give You thanks for Your mighty act of deliverance in Jesus, Your Son. Jesus' suffering on the cross delivered us from sin, death, hell and the power of the devil.

**Congregation Jesus' resurrection assures us of life with You in heaven.**

Pastor We thank you for our Baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection.

**Congregation Because Jesus lives, we shall live also.**

Pastor We thank you for Your Son's Real Presence in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Congregation "Surely," Jesus promises, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Pastor Help us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to continue to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

**Congregation Help us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us.**

Pastor We pray for the communities in which we live and serve. We pray for all who serve on the front lines of caring for those infected by the Coronavirus. We pray for doctors, nurses, health care workers and first responders. We pray for those who are sick, and in need of care. We pray for those who live or work in health care facilities and nursing homes. We pray for those who experience isolation in these times of social distancing. We pray for our schoolteachers, students and families. We pray for those who work in the supermarkets and stores in our communities. We pray for those who deliver mail, packages and food. We pray for those who serve in our department of public works. We pray for our leaders, our state, our nation, and our world. We pray that You would bless the people and our witness to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

**Congregation Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN .....*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 everlasting Head.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. He lives to grant me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

**POSTLUDE** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* arr. E. L. Ashford

## *EASTER PLANT LIST*

### *To The Glory Of God*

- ✠ *In loving memory of our dearly departed, by Roy & Ann Merz.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of loved ones, by Russ Muller.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of loved ones, by Bob & Carolyn Bieri.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of John Steindl, Frieda & Martin Wittman, by The Steindl's.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of loved ones, by Barbara Guile.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of Esther and Vincent Maxwell, by Barbara & Joan Tobiassen*
- ✠ *Loving memory of George and Peggy Trautwein from the Nancy Anderson, and the Fullam, and Taseski families.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of loved ones, by Gerry Oliver.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of loved ones, by Dot Durbec.*
- ✠ *In loving memory of loved ones by Christine Johnson.*
- ✠ *In honor of our grandchildren, by Janice Pierro.*
- ✠ *In memory of loved ones, Jeanne Difabio.*



‡ *In memory of Betty & Doug Atchison and Lillian Munsch, In honor of our grandchildren, Zach, Charlie & Brooke, by Donna and Charlie Munsch.*

‡ *In loving memory of loved ones, by Anna Zulli.*