

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

EASTER 3, April 18th 2021

Welcome to Augustana – where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together. I would like to acknowledge we gather on Treaty six territory and the homeland of many people of the Metis Nation. You are welcome to worship with us. We aim to share the unconditional love of God with people of all genders, orientations, abilities, ages, colours, cultures, or ethnicities. This is a work in progress and you are welcome to join us on our way.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

ALL: Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God now and forever. AMEN.

HYMN Glory to God in the Highest # 164

Leader: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

ALL: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Leader: To God be glory forever!

ALL: To God be glory forever!

Leader: Alleluia! Amen!

ALL: Alleluia! Amen! X7

CHILDREN'S TIME

- Our granddaughter and Groot (a stuffed character that I think is cute) – terrifying! Groot had to be hidden away.
- She will get over it ... she did get over it ... and she will eventually learn that Groot is not scary
- Jesus' followers were afraid ... and I'm not surprised after all that had happened ... and Jesus wasn't surprised either ... "it's OK it's me ... see?" "you know me ... it's OK. Peace be with you."
- And we share that same peace with one another when we share the peace and say: "the peace of Christ be with you." We are reminding each other that it's OK ... that Jesus is with us. It's especially good for us to remember this whenever we are feeling afraid or anxious. We remember Easter every time we say to one another "Peace be with you"

Scripture readings: First Reading Acts 3:12-19

¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Word of God, Word of life

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Word of God, Word of life

ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - The Holy Gospel according to **Luke 24:36b-48** Glory to you O Lord

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be

fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of our Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION -

We recently marked a sad anniversary. It was 3 years ago that there was a horrific bus crash involving the Humboldt Broncos team and staff. ... that accident hit our province hard.

- Many find this anniversary troubling because it takes them back to that sad day
- And, for some, it reminds them of a time in their own life when they had to deal with something similar and it took them back to that time.

We carry losses and grief like that sometime ... it seems to be dealt with, but then all of a sudden it is back just as real as it was a year ago or five years ago or even 50 years ago.

- we are still in the midst of Covid 19, but I suspect it will have a lasting effect
- Children – a large portion of their lives has been lived under Covid 19 protocol Those who were born in the last year know no other life
- Elders dealing with the isolation that is a mixed blessing: it might keep a person safer, but it is difficult to miss out on simple human contact
- This is especially true for those with any degree of memory loss

We carry our wounds with us. Though we try to hide from them or work around them our wounds find us out.

I don't point this out to make us all feel even worse – I do not want to make anyone feel worse - - but I do want to acknowledge a reality

I think of Jesus followers a scared, grieving, wounded group of people and I realize that we are often just like them: shocked and terrified ... trying to hide away from pain and hurt and grief. Make it go away Lock the door. Shove everything hurtful into a closet and close the door. ... and hope you never have to open the door again lest everything come tumbling out.

Into their midst comes Jesus ... peace be with you

Into our midst comes Jesus ... Jesus who has been wounded. Who knows our grief and sorrow ... who knows our need.

As a hospital chaplain – I always reminded myself that God was in the hospital room or ICU or Emergency room before I ever got there.

And today I am reminded that Jesus is in the ICU and hospital rooms Jesus is with all who feel alone Jesus is with the caregivers and families in their woundedness. We pray that there will be physical concrete reminders of this in the people who provide care. People –

friends and family ... neighbours and complete strangers – who reach out to be as Christ in their midst. To be as Christ is our midst.

Prayer: Loving God, in every age you listen to the cries of lament and the questions about your wisdom from those who face suffering and death. Hear our cries and questions. Give us hope and fill our hearts with peace. Stand with all who are suffering, that they may face the future with the confidence that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus. Amen.

HYMN “Be Not Afraid” # 388

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- The peace of the Lord be with you
- Share this with the people in your household or in a phone call or email ...
- it is a good reminder of Jesus’ words to his friends who were afraid and anxious “peace be with you”

PRAYERS

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words “hear us, O God” and you can make the prayer your own by responding **“Your mercy is great”**.

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on your guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness, especially: Angie, Tewodros and family, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Anna Marie, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Lyssa, Karen, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

Give them courage and peace in the face of illness and grief. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who use their gifts to help us through this pandemic: medical staff, researchers, caregivers, cleaners, grocery workers, truckers, and all those who work in essential services. We pray especially for Saskatchewan's chief medical officer Dr. Shahab. Give us courage and patience to carry us through to the end of this pandemic. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us *especially Elsie Stephan*. Comfort her family and assure all your children of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastor Marilyn: knowing that God loves us as a mother and father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. AMEN.

EASTER BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May the one who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

HYMN "By Your Hand You Feed Your People" # 469 verses 1 & 3

By your hand you feed your people, good of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labour, by your grace have we been fed:

Refrain: Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life out poured,
Given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.

Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying, we become what we receive: (refrain)

THANK YOU

Worship Assistant: Katie Ottley Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy choir
Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad