

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

EASTER 2021

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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. BELLS

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn Jesus Christ Is Risen Today # 365 (two verses)

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!

Pastor: This is the Good News – the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

All: HALLELUJAH!

Pastor: This is the Good News – the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out.

All: HALLELUJAH!

Pastor: This is the Good News – once we were no people, now we are God's people.

All: HALLELUJAH!

Pastor: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

Prayer: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Hymn Jesus Christ Is Risen Today # 365 (2 verses)

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king. Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

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!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Symbols of Easter

- (almost) Running the Easter bunny over after Easter Vigil
- But why are bunnies part of Easter? Bunnies – we don't see them for a long time they are in their warren under the ground and then pof they emerge just as if a stone had been rolled away and they hopped out... reminding of Jesus resurrection ... the stone rolled away and Jesus came out maybe not hopping like a rabbit But surprising those who went to the tomb
- Eggs – new life comes out of eggs Chicks also an Easter symbol ... new life the folk art began centuries ago during pagan times. In 988 A.D. the Ukrainians accepted Christianity and their Pysanky designs reflected this. The egg became a symbol of the Resurrection and a promise of life eternal.
- Bread – bread of life, braid, symbols on top, rich and sweet,
- Chocolate and other sweet treats – no reason that I know other than they taste really good. Sweet treats Sweet Easter celebration. So we have a sweet taste in our mouth when we say:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Scripture readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God, Word of life

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but

the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, Word of life

[please join in singing our Alleluia]

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 Mark 16: 1-8 Glory to you O Lord,

¹ When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

Musical interlude

Meditation -

As we hear the Easter Gospel today it is set within a specific time & place – “when the Sabbath was over” on the way to the graveyard-- something that occurred thousands of years ago. And yet we experience Easter every year as we celebrate The English priest and poet George Herbert wrote so long ago about Easter, “There is but one, and that one ever.”

We hear once again the Easter story as we go with the sorrowing women to the tomb where they planned to give their beloved Lord the last physical care they could. We accompany them as they face the seemingly insurmountable task of rolling the stone away from the tomb so that they could make sure that Jesus body was properly prepared for death. “Who will roll the stone away for us?”

Their sadness and love was all rolled together and was just as hard as any stone. It is like the terrible unrelenting hardness in one’s chest when a loved one dies or when faced with something we just can’t deal with. What to do? How to carry on? And what can roll that stone away? Who can roll that stone away?

The problem for the women walking to the tomb seemed insurmountable – and yet when they arrived at the tomb the stone was rolled away.

This past year has seemed to be one stone after another that needed to be rolled away. The relief after the first wave seemed to be rolling away ... the second wave rolling away with the new vaccines ... and then new challenges ... new stones ... that need to be rolled away. There are always stones that need to be rolled away. Even without covid in our lives there are always stones or problems that seem impossible to roll away.

All that seems insurmountable ... all the things in life that bring sadness or fear or even stunned inaction... they will always be “stones” in one form or another.

Years ago when women pastors was still a new thing there was a Women in Ministry Conference. The theme of the conference was– “Who will roll the stone away” ... A retired pastor spoke to me – he was quite indignant ... who do those women think they are? They think they can roll the stone away. I explained that the whole point was that they knew that only God could roll the stone away: then and now.

This is good news for all who are vulnerable ... worried ... afraid mourning.... Depressed ... and so on

The setting for this Good news -- Easter – was a specific time and yet we experience Easter every year. No, I must correct myself ... for Easter is part of every single day of our lives Because we have a living faith we take that one day Take it into our heart ... and it becomes part of our beating heart everyday, every breath, every heart beat. Easter is part of every heart beat.

And when the stone is there that will not roll away ... we trust that God will roll the stone away just as God did on that first Easter morning. Love comes again and again. Amen.

Choir Anthem "Love Is Come Again"

PRAYERS

Gordon: As we celebrate the new dawn of hope that comes to us this resurrection morning we give thanks:

- For the love of God that was embodied in our risen savior Jesus ...
- For all gifts of healing and forgiveness, especially we thank you for those who use their gifts to help us through the covid 19 pandemic
- For the gifts of relationship with others. Although we are still called to maintain our physical distance from one another, we give thanks for the relationships that bring support and warmth to our lives
- For the communion of faith that goes beyond the walls of our church building

Sharon: Loving God, as we celebrate the resurrection, bring healing and renewal to our world. Heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray –

- For those who govern nations of the world during challenging times
- For all people in countries ravaged by strife, warfare or illness ...
- For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction ...
- For the church of Jesus Christ in every land ...

- For all who are most vulnerable during this pandemic: refugees, the Iqbal and Alhamad/Wahid families; people living in poverty or crowded conditions, the elderly, those who already struggle with health issues ...

For those in need of care and healing especially: The Stauffer family as they grieve the loss of Mark's mom Muriel and for all who grieve this Easter. And we pray for Angie, Earl, Elsie, 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, 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.

Pastor Marilyn: Merciful God, your strength and courage pour forth to sustain the witness of your people. Awaken in us the humility to serve wherever creation is broken and in need, that we may follow in the way of our brother Jesus, die as he did to all that separates us from you, and with him be raised to new life. And 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 "The Day of Resurrection" # 361

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!

THANK YOUS

Worship Assistants: Gordon and Sharon Morley

Altar Guild: Linda Stauffer and Sharon Morley

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy's Choir, Elsa Lissel-DeCorby, Bryan Tastad, Ken Stirling

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad