

# **Worship in the Home**

## **Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day, Year B**

### **April 4, 2021**



*In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.*

#### **Prelude**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **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 the waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

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.

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.**

## Opening Hymn

## Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ELW # 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 25:6-9

## **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

### **Gospel: Mark 16:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a youth, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But the youth 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." <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>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.

### **Homily**

## **Reflection**

All around us and in us there are death and tears. One medieval image of death was as a huge mouth, swallowing people up by the hundreds, and that image seems apt today. But the promise of Isaiah is that God will instead swallow up death itself, wipe away tears from all faces, and spread a feast for all the nations. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of that feast. But the Gospel according to Mark ends with only an announcement (“he has been raised”) and a promise (“there you will see him”), seemingly without an appearance of the risen Christ. Then we read Mark again and note that Jesus comes into Galilee, preaches in Galilee, heals and forgives in Galilee, holds meetings in Galilee. Reading the book, we see him in Galilee. The Gospel book is itself his appearance. We, too, in our homes or in church, have the same announcement and promise: as we read the story of Jesus, he is with us, with us in all the scriptures, adding us to the list of witnesses. We are welcomed to the feast of the end of death. Empowered by God’s Spirit we can join in wiping away tears from our neighbors’ faces.



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-returns to life once more;  
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

## **Prayer of Intercession**

Let us rejoice and be glad on this festival of Christ's resurrection, offering our prayers to God for all in any need.

We praise you for the gift of the global church and for all the newly baptized around the world. And we pray that you send the Spirit of the resurrection into every assembly of the baptized. Give us joy in one another and hope in the face of sorrow, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the wondrous earth that you continuously create and for the myriad plants and animals that show forth your glory. And we pray for everything in nature that is endangered, from the undersea coral to the elephants of Africa. Form us into caretakers who protect your lands and seas, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the times of peace and freedom that you have granted to us. And we pray for everyone who suffers from yet more gun violence, from prejudice and injustice, from oppression and poverty. Bring an end to wars and tyrannical rule throughout the world, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the food that you provide and for the promise of an everlasting feast for all peoples. And we pray for everyone who is hungry, for residents in refugee camps, for teenage migrants, for the people who live on our streets, that they all may be fed. Show us how to meet the needs of the hungry in our world, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the availability of vaccines. And we pray for everyone who is still contracting the coronavirus, for healthcare workers, and for all who have lost family, friends, and livelihood. Restore health throughout the world, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for each day of health and well-being. And we pray for everyone who suffers from illness of any kind, for those who today will die, and for those we name here before you: . . . Accompany all who face troubles and sorrows, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for your words to Isaiah, to Paul and Peter, to Mary Magdalene and the women at the tomb, and to each one of us. Receive now, we pray, our silent prayers, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the presence of the risen Christ among us and for the witness of all who have died in the faith, especially Benedict the African. And we pray that at the end of all things you raise us with all the saints to rejoice in your presence forever, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

In thanksgiving for the new life of the resurrection, we raise these prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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.**

**Sending Hymn**

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

*ELW #369*



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.  
 Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

## **Benediction**

May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is Risen. **Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Join us for Fellowship on Zoom following the postlude:  
596-621-1441 passcode 8675309**

**Office Hours** for Pastor Traci: Monday & Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

**Office Hours** for Lori: Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Worship & Music meeting Monday, 6 p.m.

### **Worship Schedule**

Monday & Friday: Hymn Devotions at 9 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: Morning & Night Prayer at 9 a.m. & 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.

### **Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for ...**

- Bruce and Brandi Ross and family upon the death of their daughter, Mikayla, Saturday, March 27, 2021.
- Mark and Katie (Freyer) Zimmerman and family upon the death of Mark's father, John Zimmerman.
- Peggy Freyer and family upon the death of Peggy's brother-in-law, Jim Freyer.

### **Serving God and Us**

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist/Organist – Dr. Adam Smith/Mary Nelson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”**



## **THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)**

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

**Deadline** to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: **dlehman1@atlanticbb.net**

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

### **USE OF THE FUND**

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Donna Gearhart, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Anna Klepser, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Chuck McGeary, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Harry Partner, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

**Specialist Training in the Army:** Nathan Smith

In the beginning, God created our first parents to live in the Garden of Eden. They knew God, walked with God, and there was no death. They were granted life in perfect communion with the Lord who created both heaven and earth as well as themselves. But by the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the Bible-Adam and Eve broke the one command that God gave them for their safety; this meant a broken covenant and relationship with God. Sin entered into the world because humans did things their own way, rather than listen to the direction and loving care of their heavenly Father.



The good news is that even though our first parents left the garden, God never left them. The entire story of the rest of Holy Scripture is that of God calling us back to life with God. God is continuously calling all people back to God's eternal life and turning us from sin and our own destruction.

God was so committed to this work of reclaiming leaders like Moses, and David, he sent prophets like Isaiah and Elijah. All of them consistently telling them and us to turn from our evil ways and to follow the path that God has called us to. Frequently, neither they nor we listen.

If we search Holy Scripture we see that God is much more patient than any of us would ever be. Again and again God keeps sending God's Word and messengers to call people out of darkness and into the eternal light.

Eventually, after thousands of years of calling to us, God did an amazing and unexpected thing. The eternal God took on a human body and came to live with us: Jesus. He is the living God who came into our existence to save us from our sin and our own self-destructive behavior.

God did this in Jesus Christ because God loves us. Jesus loves us. We matter, and are personally known, by the Lord who holds all eternity. You are loved more than you can ever know; loved by the creator and the source of all things.

We see that love poured out for us in the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ-- Jesus became flesh to save us. He gave up his body and his blood on the cross. On the cross we see that Jesus Christ loves us so much that he would die for us.

And then, when it looked like sin and death had won, Jesus rose from the dead-- showing us he is more powerful than death. Death cannot hold the one who is the source of all life. This same Jesus has claimed us in the waters of baptism, promises to be with us until the end of the age, and says he will not lose any of us who have been entrusted to his hand.

The one who is more powerful than death is the one who has you and has claimed you. God's answer to the original sin of our first parents was to come to save us from sin, death, and from ourselves.

The Risen Lord Jesus Christ shows us the power and love of God. The power to re-write the rules of reality and make death subject to his will. We see the love of God who stops at nothing to call us back and set us on the right path.

Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! I pray that you are fully aware of the blessed presence of our Lord Jesus as we celebrate his resurrection and his victory over sin, death, and the devil. Happy Easter!

**+Bishop Michael Rhyne**  
**Easter 2021**

**Stewardship Committee** is in need of members. The committee's main function is to help the congregation make use of their "Time & Talents". The committee only has three members. Please email the church at: [stmatthewluth@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewluth@aol.com) or call 814-793-2413 to volunteer.

### **Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Albrecht Dürer, 1528; Matthias Grünewald, 1529; Lucas Cranach, 1553; artists) 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. **Wednesday** Mark 16:1-8. **Thursday** Psalm 133. **Friday**

(commemoration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1945) Daniel 2:1-23.

**Saturday** (commemoration of Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557) John 12:44-50. **Second Sunday of Easter** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 — 2:2; John 20:19-31.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw  
Portions from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *All Creation Sings*, and  
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