



## EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 12, 2020

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Center, MN

### PRELUDE

### EASTER PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### GATHERING HYMN #365 Jesus Christ is Risen Today verses 1, 2 and 4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!<br>our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!<br>who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!<br>suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!         | 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!<br>unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!<br>who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!<br>sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia! |
| 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!<br>praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!<br>praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!<br>Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! |   |

### GREETING

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

### SONGS OF PRAISE

#### He Lives

See the tomb where He laid  
See the stone rolled away  
He is risen He is risen He's alive  
See His hands see His feet  
Touch His scars and believe  
He is risen He is risen He's alive  
Oh He's alive

Hear the shackles breaking free  
Hear the song of the redeemed  
He is moving He is moving He's alive  
So take this freedom take this love  
Can you feel it rising up  
He is here He is here He's alive

He is risen He is risen He's alive

#### Worship Team

He lives  
All honor and power are His  
All glory forever amen  
Jesus (lives)  
(Jesus lives)

You took all our shame  
Left it in the grave  
We're forgiven we're forgiven  
The work forever done  
Only by the blood  
It is finished it is finished

## Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope

## Worship Team

Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa

Jesus Christ my living hope  
Oh God You are my living hope

## PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray: **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.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING: Colossians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-9

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### "When You Come to the End of Your Hope"

Let us pray: *You alone, Holy One, can give life. To these ancient words give new life and new relevance for our lives as we live them in these days. Amen.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, Christ is risen! He is risen INDEED! Alleluia! It is the greatest story ever told. In one sentence: *God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have everlasting life!*" In a few words: God came in Jesus, suffered and died on a cross and rose to new life. In one word: EASTER!

If you are participating in this worship today through paper copy or through Zoom or the church web site, it is such a joy for Cross of Glory community faith to be gathered together in worship on this festival of Easter. Even though we may not be physically together we are not apart. We are joined together today through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that makes us one!

As glorious as this day is, and as much as we love Easter, honesty requires us to acknowledge that this Easter is unlike any other Easter that we have experienced before. We come today as a world that is dealing with a virus that has left us feeling out of control and uncertain and perhaps anxious and struggling for hope. If this describes you, don't be embarrassed. It is to this very reality that Easter speaks!

On that first Easter morning, don't you think Mary Magdalene was feeling what many in our world are feeling at this time. The events of Good Friday had turned her world upside down. As she tried to sleep that night, I'm sure that dealing with grief and anxiety Mary tossed and turned until her bed covers were wrapped in a knot. Finally, she got up to go to the grave. She knew she couldn't move the stone by herself, but she had to DO something. Even today in times of grief, people often feel that they have to DO something. We rush around, obsessed with funeral arrangements, or we take care of people until we are exhausted. Even then we can't sleep. The pain is just too great. Most likely Mary felt that doing something might distract her from the ache in her heart. She never knew such pain. Her life had been tough, but never before had she felt as though she **had come to the end of her hope.**

At least she could give Jesus' body a proper burial. They had put him in the tomb hastily on Friday because it was almost the Sabbath. So, Mary gathered her burial spices, emerged into the courtyard, quietly closing the door behind her. It was then she discovered she was not alone. Huddled around the cooling embers of last night's fire were her sisters, the other women who had been faithful disciples of Jesus. Without a word, the women began walking to the tomb.

When they reached the tomb, however, the women find that the stone to the tomb has been rolled away and the clothes that they had wrapped around Jesus' body were lying there. Then two men dressed in white asked an important question, "**Why do you seek the living among the dead?**" (I almost entitled this sermon, "Looking for Hope in all the Wrong Places," but that sounded too much like a country song!)

Have you ever been on a plane that had a particularly hard landing? I've had some that I was sure broke something when we hit the ground. On one such landing, as an older woman passed the pilot standing in the cockpit door as she was exiting the plane, she said, "Young man do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Of course not," he replied politely. "Well I was wondering, did we just land, or were we shot down?"

Well, sometimes we may all be feeling like our hopes were shot down. No doubt that is how the women felt that day. The angel suggested they were looking for hope in the wrong place. That may be one explanation for the despair, cynicism and pessimism that sometimes seems to creep over our lives. It is why we so often get trapped in self-defeating cycles. We look for hope in all the wrong places and find ourselves seeking life among the dead. But the message of the angel to the women was: **Life is not dead. Christ is risen.**

The women who went to the tomb that day did not expect to encounter resurrection. They went because they wanted **to do what they could** for the Jesus who they thought was dead and gone. What they discovered in the darkness of the early dawn, however, was that God had gone before them and done for Jesus what they could NOT DO. You see, we learned to **cope by doing what we can.** Now, **we must learn to hope by trusting in what only God can do!!**

In this life, there may be no more important lesson than learning our limits-that many things in life are out of our control- and then learning to let go and trust God with the rest. I suspect that the real reason Jesus arose before anyone got there was that if we had discovered he was alive, we would have tried to anoint his body with the embalming spices anyway!

We don't like things that we can't control, do we? We like to manage, fix, and handle things on our own and often in our own way. So, we often discount spiritual realities that we can't explain. Hope isn't logical, but to live as a Christ is to soar on the winds of resurrection, to:

see the invisible, hear the silent, and trust the eternal.

There was a father who, every summer, went hiking in the Smoky Mountains with his son John. They started this hiking tradition when the boy was still too young to carry a backpack. The only summer they ever missed was the one when John was drafted to serve in Vietnam. Like 58,209 other Americans, John never returned. The next summer, the father still went hiking as an act of healing and remembering. At the end of the first day, he arrived at the summit of the mountain and looked out just as the sun was setting. It was a spectacular view. Alone, he said out loud to the wind, "Johnny, I only wish you were here to see this." There was a moment's pause, and then the father heard the wind whisper, "Dad, you haven't seen anything yet."

Easter calls us to see life with eyes of the Spirit, to put down our burial spices and embrace the possibilities of the resurrections God offers. All around us are hints. Trees that have appeared dead all winter will soon be sprouting new life. Flower beds that last fall were brown and dry and over the winter were covered in snow will wave colorfully in the sun once again. And people...how many people have we all known who whose lives seemed as good as over, but they rose to live again with more purpose and passion than ever?

In preparation for this message, I have tried to think of something new and creative to say to you this morning about Easter. As you can see, I have not succeeded. Perhaps what we all need to hear at this time is not a new word but an old one: the word that gave life back to those women trapped in their night of despair, the word that took a scattered and scared bunch of disciples and made them a force that the Roman Empire could not vanquish. So, the word I have for you is this: **Christ is risen. Light disperses darkness; Love overcomes hate; and Life prevails over death.**

One of most magnificent structures ever built was the cathedral in Coventry England. On the morning of November 14, 1940, after Hitler's planes had bombed the countryside through the night, the people of Coventry emerged to see one of their worst fears realized. Their beautiful cathedral, which had stood in the middle of the city for almost 900 years, lay in rubble. All that remained of their glorious sanctuary were some partial walls and pieces of smoked stained glass.

After the war, as they considered what to do, the people resolved to build another cathedral, but they left the ruins next to the new building as a reminder of the horrors of war and as a call to peace. It is a custom that Easter morning worship for the congregation begins in the ruins of the old cathedral-before the rubble of what was once the altar. Then, precisely at dawn, from the roof of the new cathedral a trumpet sounds and the thousands who have gathered for worship process into the new church singing in full voice, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

Bombed out. Burned down. Defeat, despair, dust and death. But they did not stay down! They got up! They rose again as the resurrected body of Christ to witness to Life. I believe you and I can too!

Churches today can believe that their best days are behind them, or they hear the trumpet call and march with confidence into God's promise of life. You can believe that the prime of your life is behind you or you can know the resurrecting power of God.

Asked what Easter means:

-The six-year old says, "The Easter bunny and lots of candy."

-The 16-year-old says, "It means Jesus rose from the dead or something like that."

-The 86-year old says, "It means I have only begun to live."

To me, preaching to a congregation that God is resurrecting, Easter means **NONE OF US need ever come to the end of our hope.**

May God bless you with resurrected life today and eternal life forever. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY #380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!<br>He is now the Living One;<br>from the gloomy halls of death<br>Christ, the conqueror, has gone,<br>bright forerunner to the skies<br>of his people, yet to rise.             | 2 Jesus lives! Why do you weep?<br>Why that sad and mournful sigh?<br>Christ who died our brother here<br>lives our brother still on high,<br>lives forever to bestow<br>Blessings on his church below. |
| 4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.<br>Praise him, ransomed of the earth.<br>Praise him in a nobler song,<br>cherubim of heav'nly birth.<br>Praise the victor king, whose sway<br>sin and death and hell obey. | 5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!<br>Join with us in hymns of praise.<br>Let your chorus swell the strain<br>Which our feebler voices raise:<br>Glory to our God above<br>And on earth his peace and love!    |

**CONFESSION OF FAITH 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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**

The mission and ministry of Cross of Glory continues during this time.

Thank you for your generous support of what God is doing through your community of faith!

**ANTHEM Break Forth in Joyful Song ~ Robert Leaf Keith Williams**

*Break forth in joyful song; sing alleluia.  
For Jesus Christ is ris'n today.  
Come with a song of praise; sing alleluia.  
For Jesus Christ is ris'n today.  
Jesus is risen. Sing alleluia!  
Break forth in joyful song. Song alleluia.  
All thru the world: alleluia.  
Break forth in joyful song; sing alleluia.  
For Jesus Christ is ris'n today.  
God's people shall receive eternal blessing.*

*Let alleluias fill the air.  
Sing alleluia. Our Savior is alive.  
Break forth in joyful song; sing alleluia.  
For Jesus Christ is ris'n today.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of glory, receive our gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of resurrection, this is the day when your holy church gathers to rejoice that Christ is risen-He is risen indeed!

Make us eager to go into all the world with the news that Christ is alive, death is conquered and there is hope. *Lord in your mercy....*

### **Hear our prayer**

God of resurrection, we come this Easter as a world that is dealing with a pandemic virus. We pray for those who have tested positive and those who are ill at this time. We ask that your strength and presence would surround those families whose loved one(s) have died because of this disease. We ask your help to be with all health care workers and first responders as they seek to care for your people during this difficult time. *Lord in your mercy....*

### **Hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, may your light and love fill all of us during these days. Keep us ever mindful of your promise that assure us that whatever we may go through, we don't need to go through it alone. Thank you for your strength and presence with us. Thank you for others, especially our congregation Cross of Glory, that walk with us through these days. *Lord in your mercy...*

### **Hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, with bold confidence in you, we place ourselves and all for whom we have prayed into your care, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER    Our Father who art in heaven.....**

## **BLESSING**

May the risen Christ bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. May Almighty God, Father, Son, and Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH HYMN            #376            Thine is the Glory            verses 1 and 3**

1 Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.

*Refrain*  
Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!

- 3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors,  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above. *Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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## **NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On Sunday, April 19, after the 9:30 a.m. virtual worship service, Cross of Glory Lutheran Church will have a virtual congregational meeting for the purpose of calling the congregation's next pastor.

This meeting will occur by the options outlined in a mailing that you have received from the church. You can select either option #2 (telephone) or option #4 (video conference.) These options will be the way congregational members can participate in the meeting.

When you receive the worship bulletin for April 19 in the mail, a ballot will also be included for your vote. Please mail your ballot back to the church office by April 21.

### **For Easter Sunday:**

Erik Haugland is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. For anyone who is struggling, I would again offer my own cell phone number of (909) 800-9094. Please call me and I will try to help you with any login issues. Thanks! Erik Haugland

Topic: Easter Sunday

Time: Apr 12, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8025025123?pwd=U1EzVlJoc1BGeTR6TzJtU2FKZ0hUQT09>

Meeting ID: 802 502 5123

Password: 433131

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,8025025123# US (New York)

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Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aoyB6lZvv>



## *Easter Memorial Garden April 12, 2020*

*Cheryl and Gail Anderson in loving memory of our parents Sidney and Marian Anderson.*

*Jeanetta Barhorst in memory of my husband and daughter.*

*Larry and Judy Bertelsen in memory of loved ones.*

*Don and Karen Earnest in memory of relatives and friends.*

*Phyllis Hamre in memory of daughter Lori Lynn Hamre and sister Jeanine Holdredge.*

*Chet and Marcia Janasz and family in memory of Edwin and Helen, Frank and Ann, Karen, and Michael and many loved ones. And the Cancer Support Group "Angels."*

*Marie King, Jason and Beth McGrew-King in memory of Donald D. King.*

*Richard and Arlene Kosek in memory of loved ones.*

*Judy Lewis in memory of family and friends who are in heaven with our Lord.*

*Dick Mero in memory of Lorraine, Shirley, Rick and Carol Larson.*

*Dolores Patterson, wife and Kirby Patterson, son in memory of Dale R. Patterson.*

*Marian Priest in memory of Bruce and Katy Priest.*

*Earl Simons and Bill, Dawn, Ryan and Chad Bailey in memory of Ruthanne Simons.*

*Linnea Ulrich in memory of husband Lee, parents Hilding and Mayme, brother Don and other treasured family and friends.*

*Bruce and Sue Vukelich in memory Darrel Nelson and Ed and Mary Ann Vukelich.*

*Tom and Sherry Weko in memory of Carl and Betty Benson, Connie Weko, Brewster and Sammy.*