

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

Rev. Mark Selbo

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org)



All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.

If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus.

His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

CHIMES/EASTER GREETING

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

– *Silence for reflection* –

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may
delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

SONG: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today – ELW #365 (vs 1, 2, 4)

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Jesus Christ is risen 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 heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!



Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

GREETING

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

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.**

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

If your child is interested, a quick Children's Activity at this time. Children will return in time for Communion. Guardians are welcome to join. Children are always welcome to stay in church – their energy is appreciated. Activities such as coloring sheets, picture books and sketch tablets are also available in the entry way.

READING – Isaiah 25:6-9

On 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. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; 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. It will be said on that day, "See, 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."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM – Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Please join in reading the bold portion responsively

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

The Lord is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

the right hand of the Lord is exalted;

the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but I shall live

and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely,

but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;

the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me

and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

READING – Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to (the people who gathered): “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



– Please stand as you are able –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

THE GOSPEL – Mark 16:1-8

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to You, O Lord.***

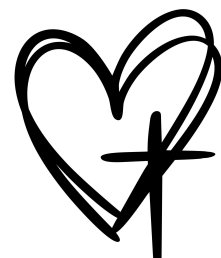
When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 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. 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.”

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.***

SERMON – “We’ve Only Just Begun”



SONG: Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! – ELW #380 (vs 1, 2, 3, 5)

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
From the gloomy hall of death, Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.

Jesus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mournful sigh?
Christ who died our brother here, lives our brother still on high.
Lives forever to bestow blessings on his church below.

Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, life eternal waits for you;
Joined to Christ, your living head; Where he is, you shall be too;
With the Lord, at God's right hand, as a victor you shall stand.

Hallelujah! Angels sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strains, which our feebler voices raise:
Glory to our God above, and on earth his peace and love!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace... Hear our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.
– Please share a greeting of peace –

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Not provided here – in book on Altar)

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to receive Communion or a blessing. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

Today we will offer both single-serving Communion kits as well as a traditional distribution of bread and wine. Please choose as you feel comfortable.

Single-serving kits are available in the first tray. Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

If you would like Traditional Communion, select an empty cup from the second tray and come forward to Pastor Selbo, who will place a piece of bread into your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

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

SONG: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds – ELW 367 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Now all the vault of heaven resounds, in praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing, choir of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia! Allelu - ia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Now still he comes to give us life, and by his presence stills all strife.

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia! Allelu - ia!

Adoring praises now we bring, and with the heavenly blessed sing:

“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”

Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God,

All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia! Allelu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Thank you for your presence.

Please enjoy fellowship time.

Have a blessed Easter!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PreSchool Birthday Bash & Bazaar – Saturday, April 27 from 10 to 2.** Please come and shop! Invite your friends!
- **Mother's Day Bags April 28** – Sue's Pantry asked if we could create a treat for the many women she serves. Holly is gathering items for us to pack gift bags. Assembly date tentatively planned for April 28 after church. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the items, please reach out to Holly (HollySJ@earthlink.net). Thank you.
- **Caring Hands** – April TBD, May 18, June 15 from 9 to noon.
- **Scout Troop 273 Ice Cream Social** – April 13 from 2 to 5 at Middle South
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Pdraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, gloves, feminine products, and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. New wishlist diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, cough drops, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, coats, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa (tcalabrese98@gmail.com).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you.