

Easter Sunday

Adaptive Worship Service

April 12, 2020



1812 North Highland Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33755
Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. With the Fellowship Hall unavailable for live-streaming, we are attempting to live-stream the service from the Sanctuary. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: GraceCLW.com

ADAPTIVE SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING SONG

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, 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!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. 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

EASTER GREETING

Worship Leader: Alleluia! He is Risen!!

Congregation: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST READING

Colossians 3:1-4

Introduction to the Lesson: *Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

You have been raised to life with Christ, so set your hearts on the things that are in heaven, where Christ sits on his throne at the right side of God. Keep your minds fixed on things there, not on things here on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory!

After the reading...

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10

Introduction to the Gospel: *Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 28th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men.

The angel spoke to the women. “You must not be afraid,” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said.

Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!’ Remember what I have told you.”

So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Peace be with you.” They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. “Do not be afraid,” Jesus said to them. “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”me.”

After the reading...

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons

Be Not Afraid

Filled with great joy and fear? This is how Matthew’s gospel describes the disciples in the moments just after they learn that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. As churches across the world today fill with people, flowers, and music, an almost palpable sense of joy seems to fill the air . . . but fear? Where does fear fit into today’s celebration?

Below the surface of the festivities, we all harbor far more fear than our Sunday best might reveal. As you take your place among this Christian assembly, the community around you is full of other people who struggle with fear, worry, and anxiety. Today in this assembly, there is fear about money, fear about relationships, fear about the larger changes taking place in our world, fear about belonging and being loved, fear about being good enough, smart enough, or talented enough, fear about illness and death, fear of being judged, even fear of religion and the church. Today’s gospel shows us that we are not alone in our fear. Even as they rejoiced, the first disciples were afraid—afraid of the unknown, afraid of ways they had let Jesus down, afraid of what was coming next for them.

But to all of us, both the angels and Jesus himself say, “Do not be afraid!” In his human life, Jesus experienced the great fears we all live with every day. On the cross he faced the pain and suffering our greatest fears bring. But when he emptied that tomb on Easter morning, he also emptied death of its sting and our fears of their bite. Strengthened by each other, we are bold to proclaim that in Christ’s victory, every path of death has been opened to new life. In every action of today’s worship, we build up one another’s faith and confidence that because Christ lives, our fears are coming to an end.

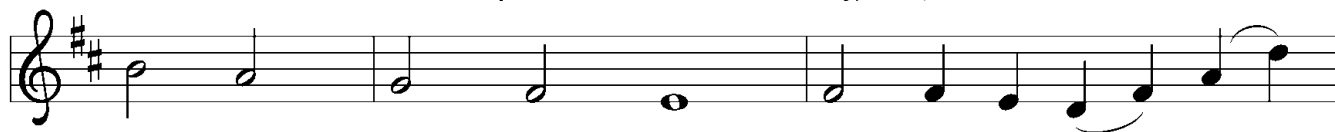
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders (*especially Pastor Lydia, our Deacons Connie, Susi, Vicki and Iris, and all the other women who provide leadership in the ministry of the Gospel here at Grace*). Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence *especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Eliezar Granados, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (*especially the those impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, those in harm's way while serving in the military, as first responders, or in the medical field, those unjustly or*

unnecessarily separated from their parents or children, and *those we name now with our lips or in our hearts*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died (*especially*). Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OFFERING

Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at GraceCLW.com (look for the “Donate” button), or (for now) by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. You can fill out your attendance form on our website as well.

OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

Congregation: 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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Congregation: Amen.

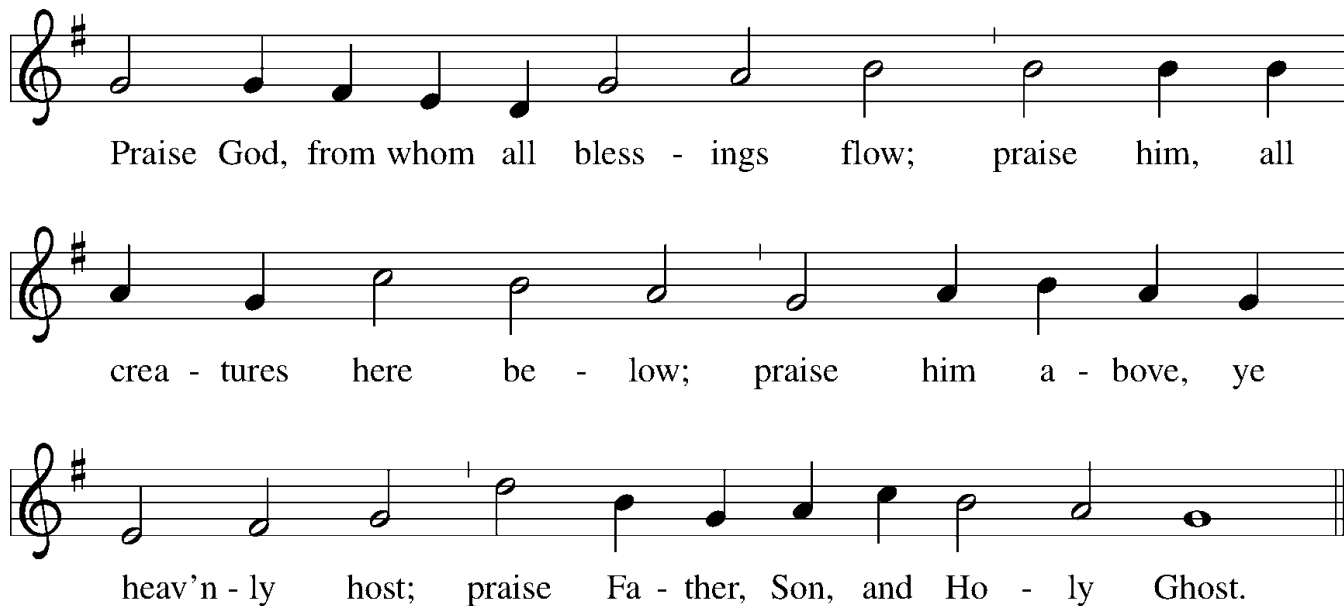
BLESSING

Worship Leader: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now our service of worship has ended, and our service to the world begins! Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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