

Sunday, April 5, 2015 Easter Day
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD-COMMUNION

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead to bring everlasting hope, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN: **“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”** **# 365 ELW**

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

P: Thank you, our Father, God, for the news of Easter;

C: We rejoice in the resurrection story, O God.

P: We are humbled by the magnificence of new life;

C: And we ask for continual renewal of life, O Father.

P: For the joy that sprang from the grave; for the happiness that Jesus' friends felt when He recognized them and called them by name and for the blessing of knowing him,

C: We give you thanks; O God.

P: Rekindle in us, this Easter, the faith you have so generously bestowed upon us through your Holy Spirit;

C: That our feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds may be directed by our trust in you, O Father.

P: Shower upon the whole earth, Magnificent God, the resurrection news:

C: That even where people do not know your Son, he may instill justice, at the very least, and merciful loving kindness, if possible, in the minds and hearts of all people.

P: At this season of the year, when the best news of all is proclaimed again and again, let it especially be heard by those who are sick;

C: By those who are troubled, in any way;

P: By those who are distressed in mind or spirit;

C: By those who are dying;

P: By those who are grieving for a loved one already called to triumphant life with you;

C: By all, O Father, who, in any way, need even stronger reassurance that yours is the victory over everything that can possibly destroy us.

P: Reassure them, and us that ours, too, is the same victory through Christ, whom we have accepted in faith.

ALL: Unto you, O God, Father, Son and Spirit, we give praise and honor now and forever. Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "The Lord is Risen"

FIRST READING: Colossians 3:1-4

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.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

Refrain: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
(Ps. 118:24)

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. R

The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation. R

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

GOSPEL:

John 20: 1-9

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

HYMN: "Thine is the Glory" #376 ELW

SERMON: "While It Was Still Dark"

**OFFERTORY
& OFFERTORY HYMN:** "Beautiful Savior" #838 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made alive to God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

O God, in Christ's death and resurrection your church is reborn. Bless your people in every nation: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal. Raise us up to witness together to your undying love for the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, your faithfulness extends to all the earth. On this Easter morn, we pray for creation. Make terror and destruction cease, and renew all things in the bright dawning of your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, the resurrection of your Son means life for every nation. Show us that promise and hope. Heal nations scarred by injustice and greed; give hope to those ravaged by violence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, your Son healed all who were oppressed. Bless those who heal and show compassion in Jesus' name, even as we pray for the many among us who are still in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, in the waters of baptism you call us by name and raise us to new life in you. Renew us with all faith, hope, and love, that we might be Christ's risen body in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, we give thanks for the saints whose lives proclaim the victory of your love. With them, give us courage to follow our crucified and risen Lord, until all things are gathered in his name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” #367 ELW

Welcome - we're glad you are here with us!

Those Serving Today:

Music:	Marlys Beaver & Choir	Greeters:	Bill & Cheri Johnson
Ushers:	8:30am Skip & Lynn Hansen	10:00am	Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Lector:	8:30am Susan Samelson		
Coffee:	Meidlingers & Praise Team		

Thank you for volunteering!

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Attendance: 03/29/2015 8:30 am 86 10:00 am 36
04/02- 9:00 am 38

This week at Bethesda April 6 – April 12, 2015

Monday	04/06	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	04/07	8-11am	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilter's
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
Wednesday	04/08	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	04/09	8:00 pm	R.O.M.E.O.S
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	04/10	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	04/12	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance Registry Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This is a new process we are trying. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

Choir Practice Choir will practice on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Servers Needed Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. All Sundays in April are still open.

Women's Devotions Monday, April 13th, 9:00am at Pat Becker's. Study: New Testament.

Stewardship Meeting Tuesday, April 21 at 9:00am

Knowledge Bites Tuesday, April 14th, 2:00pm, Light of the Cross Lutheran Church Garrison. Topic: New Age Fishing Techniques & Equipment. Open to the public. No Charge. Treats and Beverages Served.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Welcome Visitors! Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex, listing your home address and phone number. If you would like pastoral care, feel free to contact the church using the information noted above. We wish you a blessed day in the Lord!



Easter Lily Dedications

Marilyn Andrews

Carol Bakken

Jerry & Pat Becker

Roy & Char Berg

Judie Birk

Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Wayne & JoAnne Davidson

Frank & Joyce Dressely

Dick Gripp

Merrill & Patti Honnold

Dianne & Del Jones

Darrell Kelly

Doug Kloss

Alene Lowe

Keith & Dorothy Mundinger

Troy & Laury Nyberg

Cindy Persson & Dan

Cindy Persson & Dan

Pastor Jim & Karen Raisanen

Jenny Schuett

Mary Swanson

Kenny & Patti Wanous

Bev Wedig

Gaylord Westerlund

**Memory of Dave &
Parents**

Maynard

Our Parents

Parents

Family

Parents

Parents

**In Honor of our
Grandchildren & Great
Grandchildren**

Nancy

Our Parents

**Honor of Parents
Helen & Orville Tangern
72nd Wedding Anniversary**

Family & Friends

Mother

Shirley

Memory of Loved Ones

Our Boys

Hospice

Parents

**Honor of our
Grandparents**

Dennis

Del & Jenny

**Kids, Grandkids
& Friends**

Al & Jen

Ruth