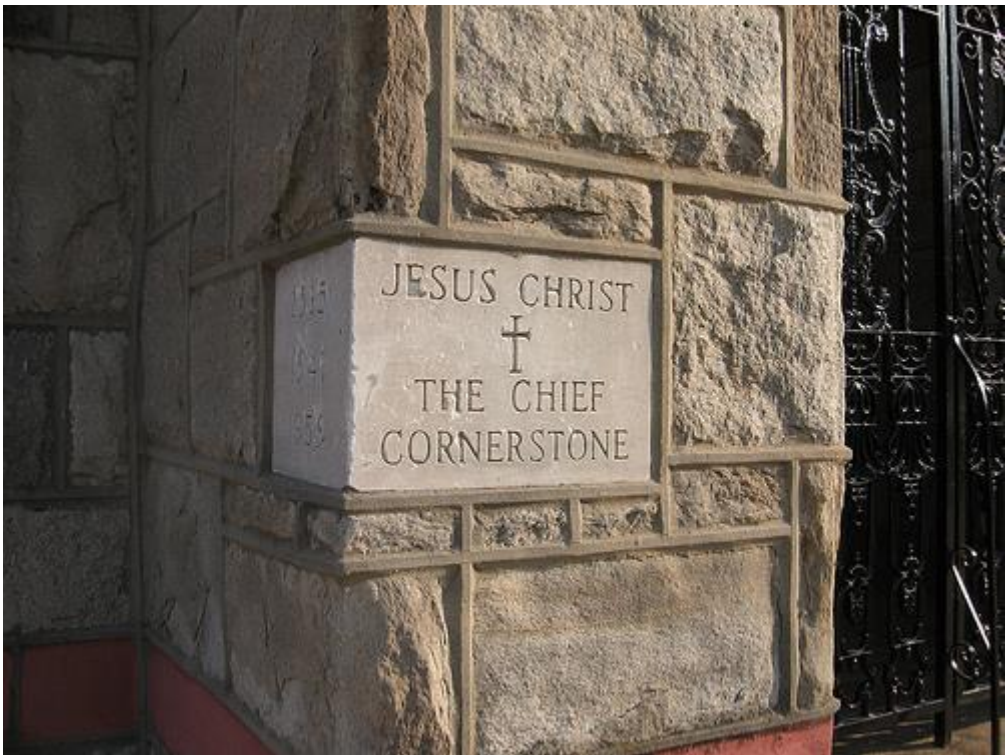




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship
April 3, 2022 9:30am



ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by takin

g it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – No parable more fully describes the profound character of God’s mercy than the prodigal son and the waiting father. We are the rebels who begin to think we deserve our heavenly Father’s kindness and who demand from Him what is not our right to claim. But instead of disowning us, He meets us with joy, welcomes us with His forgiveness, restores our tattered righteousness with the robe of Christ’s holiness, and sets His Table before us. This is what happens every Sunday as the Lord reclaims us from our sins, restores joy to our heavy hearts, reminds us of His baptismal promise, and feeds our body and soul with the body and blood of His Son. This is the source of our holy joy and this is the peace that passes all understanding.

Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord!
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

***CHORUS: Behold He comes, riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.***

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of Your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in Your world,
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the Lord! ***CHORUS***

BRIDGE: There's no God like Jehovah! (phrase repeated...follow worship team) CHORUS

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
 And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900, alt.
 Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76
 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us make confession to our heavenly Father. With God's Old Testament people, we remember His rescuing them and us from spiritual and physical enemies, that we might declare His praise.
- C** **But we confess that too often we still fear those who would harm us and deceive us, unsure of God's almighty protection.**
- P** With generations before us who joyfully harvested their crops, we give thanks for all the great things the Lord has done for us.
- C** **But we confess that too often we focus on the gifts and forget the Giver. We are glad, but do not always give God the credit.**

- P** With Paul and the saints before us, we proclaim the righteousness that comes from Christ alone through the God-given faith He has bestowed on us.
- C** **But we confess that too often we seek to impress God with our own righteousness. We hope He will answer prayers, thinking that we deserve to be heard.**
- P** Although our Lord warned His opponents of the judgment they faced, because He, the rejected stone, has become the cornerstone on which the Church is built in grace and mercy, let us confidently go to God, asking His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.

- P** Almighty God, heavenly Father,
- C** **we confess that we are by nature sinful. We have failed to love You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have considered ourselves better than others; we have expected You to bless us in all things. For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord, forgive us, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Christ Jesus, true man and true God, was obedient to His Father in all things and in our place. By His death, He destroyed death, and by His rising opened eternal life to all who call on Him for forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey toward the joys of Easter.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, by Your great goodness
- C** **mercifully look upon Your people that our shattered self-serving dreams be transformed by Your life-giving power;**
- P** through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:16–21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.
¹⁹Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 3

L The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.
When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

C **The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

L Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

C **the Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

L Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

C **The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

L Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb!
Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

C **The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

L He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

C **The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

Epistle

Philippians 3:8–14

⁸Indeed, I count everything as **loss** because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the **loss** of all things and count them as **rubbish**, in order that I may **gain** Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 20:9–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' ¹⁴But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!"

¹⁷But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?

¹⁸"Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

¹⁹The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

1. Christ is our cornerstone
On Him alone we build
With His true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled
On His great love our hopes we place
Of present grace and joys above
2. Here may we gain from heaven
The grace which we implore
And may that grace once given
Be with us evermore
Until that day when all the blest
To endless rest are called away

3. Oh, then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song both loud and long
That glorious name

Unpacking Philippians 3:8–14 – “Gain and Loss Through the Lens of the Cross” Outline and Notes

1. Two lenses (filters) while examining Philippians 3:8-14
 - the World’s Lens... works-righteousness/gotta-do lens
 - the Lens of the Cross... the Gospel... everything that was done by Christ for you
2. “Loss and Gain”... Through the World’s Lens means failure or success based on me
3. In verse 8
 - “gain” is used in the context of winning a race... ultimately losing everything for Jesus... being “all in” for Him.
 - Greek word “zāmian” = “loss” (suffering violence, damage, assault)... also being “all in for Jesus” (loss = gain)
 - The worldly views of finances and economic concerns are not part of this definition and meaning.
4. In much of our life, we tend to use worldly-economic principles as an economic lens and filter everything, including our faith life.
 - Putting conditions on our giving... trying to “make deals” with God
 - The sad reality is that when there are tough times in our lives, the first thing to suffer is our giving to our home congregation.
 - How we handle this part of our life gives a good indication of where our hearts and minds are focused on ultimately in this life.
 - Again, this scripture is not about the worldly view of economics and financial gains and losses.
5. St. Paul is sharing GOSPEL truth here, not the Law of “gotta-dos.”
6. So often our words and actions do not line up with our intentions... we don’t like to admit this... We fail at the most benign types of pressure against our faith.
7. There is what we **think** is reality – and then there is **real** reality...

8. there are some false ideas in churches
 - surrendering everything is pushed almost as a way of getting a better spot in Heaven.
 - Some people have gone through the self-loathing and shame of shuda-cuda-wudas that "I have been such a terrible Christian with all my failures, and I need to do MORE to gain what's in store in heaven."
9. Satan loves our guilt when we despair over doing not doing enough... he loves when we seek our autonomy over God's sovereignty... then loves it when we feel guilty doing that...
10. St. Paul's teaching isn't about you and it isn't about personal loses. The issue here is not about giving up everything in order to gain Jesus. This is not about a prescription for how to live a better Christian life!
11. These verses are a DESCRIPTION –
 - describes what life in Christ **already is**...what it sounds like and looks like... what Jesus has done for you and given up for you already!
 - Describes God's **loss** for your sake in order for you to **gain** eternal life and more!
 - God's **loss** so He could **gain** you!
12. You were once lost, and that was a total, sinful loss. Living in unrepentant sin is deadly.
13. Jesus's willful **loss** was all for your **gain**.
14. This **is** reality viewed through the lens of the cross of Jesus... that whatever our temporary life has this side of eternity is a total loss in comparison to what we have already in Christ.
15. "By any means possible" = "I know and trust God and what He is doing. And whatever is in store, I'm good with it. He promised that He works all things for the good of those who love him, and if that means that loss of dignity, pain, brutal death, and suffering might be part of my journey, OK. That will all be used to bring me across my race's finishing line. He will be with me and for me as I endeavour to be humble and faithful in bearing my crosses."

This I Believe (The Creed)

Our Father everlasting
 The all creating One
 God Almighty
 Through Your Holy Spirit
 Conceiving Christ the Son
 Jesus our Saviour

***CHORUS 1: I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high ***CHORUS 1***

BRIDGE: I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

***CHORUS 2: I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus
CHORUS 1:***

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Ben Fielding | Matt Crocker

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Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.

Let us pray for all who, like Israel in Isaiah's day, have had their dreams shattered, have been displaced from their homes, are living in refugee camps, or are forgotten in pockets of poverty and discrimination.

C **Fulfill their dreams with Your gracious plans, Lord. Restore them to their homes, lift their lives in dignity, and provide the food, clothing, and shelter they require.**

P Let us pray for all who, like those in the psalm going to the temple, whose better, joyful, and bountiful times in the past seem like shattered dreams.

MEN – Fulfill their dreams with Your gracious plans, Lord. Console those who mourn loved ones, lost crops, and past prosperity. Strengthen and restore those who languish under ill health, inadequate nutrition, or unemployment.

P Let us pray for all who, like Paul before he came to faith in Christ, struggle, dreaming that they might be righteous under God’s Law, as well as those who have no understanding of God’s grace and mercy for the sake of Christ, our Lord.

WOMEN – Fulfill their dreams with Your gracious plans, Lord. Guide the Church here and around the world to proclaim the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ. Strengthen us to press on toward the upward call You so graciously extend to us for Jesus’ sake.

P Let us pray for all who, like the tenant farmers in Jesus’ parable, have nightmares, fearing that the spiritual and physical blessings they enjoy must be held tightly as their own possessions.

MEN – Fulfill their dreams with Your gracious plans, Lord. Open the eyes of governmental leaders, corporation executives, and religious leaders to see their calling to care for others with the resources You provide. Show them how they may serve Your people in justice, compassion, and mercy.

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Offering – DURING THE OFFERING: Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength, my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Benediction and Dismissal

P The Lord has done great things for us;

C **we are glad, indeed!**

P The Lord bless you and keep you in His fulfilled promises. The Lord make His face shine on you and graciously give you Christ's own righteousness. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

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