



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

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 taking 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 Non-Alcoholic Wine 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.

Pre-service and Postlude Music *by Jennifer Kirk*

As We Gather – Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the Lord comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation Opening Sentences *Psalm 6, 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7*

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

C Amen.

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C death no longer has dominion over Him.

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now His brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b

P In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C **I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

P O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

C **O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

P Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

G **For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

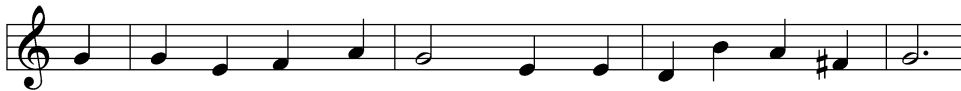
Hymn Sequence

L The psalmist writes, "Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him" (98:1). The strains of Easter joy echo through all the services of the Easter season. Each Sunday is a "little Easter" for us to celebrate as together we sing of the victory of our God. We are amazed Easter people, and our amazement is best expressed in our songs of joy. One of the oldest hymns in our hymnbooks is "The Day of Resurrection," written by John of Damascus in the eighth century. Together we sing stanza 1 that celebrates "the Passover of gladness."

The Day of Resurrection



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.

L Paul writes: "When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' . . . But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57). The victory of Christ is the lasting source of joy that gives hope to the grieving and assurance to all the faithful. We rejoice as we sing the second stanza of "The Day of Resurrection."

The Day of Resurrection



2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right

The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light

And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,

His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.

L John writes in the book of Revelation: "And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast . . . standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!'" (Revelation 15:2–3). The celebration of the victory of Jesus, the Lamb of God slain for our salvation, goes on throughout eternity. We join in the joyful praise as we sing the third stanza of "The Day of Resurrection."

The Day of Resurrection

3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,

Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.

Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;

For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
 O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

Acts 3:11–21

¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 4

C Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

I O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

II But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself; the Lord hears when I call to Him.

I Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

II Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

C There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O LORD!"

I You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

II In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

1 John 3:1–7

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:36–49

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

Sermon – “Real Hope for the Hope-Challenged has a Name! Jesus.” OUTLINE

1. Hope-challenged?
2. Human wisdom does not and should not control our faith. Human wisdom and approaches should not be held higher than God’s Word! A believer’s hope is different than the world’s concept of hope. The world thinks of hope as wishful thinking... and possibly some luck thrown in. But Christian hope is a certainty based on God’s Word, not luck and human effort alone. Christian Hope is based on God’s promises! **Christian hope has a name – Jesus.**
3. As believers, there is even something worse than risking our hopes being set too high – it’s living life without hoping in Jesus enough! See Isaiah 35:3-6b and the Leaping Man!
4. Acts 3:1-10 – Peter and John literally heal a Lame Beggar... then Acts 3:11ff...
5. God’s Word is not just informational, it is transformational!
6. Our faith and how we approach God and His Word and promises is on trial! We often box God up and look to our own way of looking at things. We are on trial for a hope in God that is way too small.
 - a. We sometimes allegorize God’s literal miracles, not take them seriously, or forget.
 - b. When we diminish God’s power and promises we diminish everything He has done for us.
7. The Apostle Paul – “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” = the death and resurrection of Jesus and the restoration of all creation! THAT is mighty big hope to not be ashamed of!!
8. But we often minimize our own hope in God... often taking the reins from God... often letting our complaints, the way we view our past and other issues cloud our vision, feeding discouragement, robbing us of our joy, and possibly even poisoning relationships and ruining the witness of our Christian hope. Paul wasn’t ashamed of his huge hope, but we are at times.
9. Those who listened to Peter had rejected Jesus and handed Him over to be killed. We too at times have rejected and have handed over our full Christian Hope replacing it with our own thoughts of what is and what can be.
10. When we project worry instead of hope... or minimize God’s power and promises, the words of Jesus to the Sadducees can be applied to us: “You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God.” (Matthew 22:29)
11. Remember – when our almighty God is involved, that rational line between what we think is possible and what really is possible can disappear.
12. Thank God Jesus bore the sin of our lack of loving, trusting, and obeying God above all things. That is what our own hope problem comes down to – refusing to love, trust and obey God above all things. Huge Biblical hope is warranted and here for you, along with forgiveness and new starts! Hope is a person. Hope has a name – Jesus.

Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
- And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
- And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – 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.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, [*especially . . .*], those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for, like as a Father, You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
2. The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
4. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Nothing But the Blood (Plainfield)

1. What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus **CHORUS**
2. For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus **CHORUS**

***CHORUS: O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus***

3. Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus **CHORUS**
4. This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus **CHORUS**

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
Grant that Your Son's body and blood, O Lord, which You have given us to eat and to drink, may abide in us; and let no stain of sin remain in us, whom this pure and holy Sacrament has refreshed; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C** Amen.

Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

***Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

***CHORUS: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

BRIDGE: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am
(Oh) (Yes) I am who You say I am ***CHORUS***

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Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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