

Compelled by the love of Christ, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

Easter Son-rise Service April 4, 2010

As You Enter God's House at Easter Dawn the church is still dark and silent, reflecting quiet of the first Easter Sunday morning and the sorrow that overwhelmed the hearts of the women who went to the tomb. Then they heard the news we celebrate today!

The Prayer Before Worship O God, for our redemption You gave Your only Son to suffer death on the cross, and by His glorious resurrection You delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin so that we may live with Him forever in the joy of His resurrection, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR WORSHIP

Minister: Why do you look for the living among the dead? He has risen, just as he said.
Jesus keeps His promises! Christ is Risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn: 150 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!"

Responsive Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

M: If it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

C: **And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is our faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.**

M: But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

C: **Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.**

M: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,

C: **The First-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

M: For since death came through a man,

C: **The resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.**

M: For as in Adam all die,

C: **So in Christ all will be made alive.**

All: (Sing - Tune, Hymn 169)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.**

**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal, on this resurrection morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by his mighty enterprise,
We with him to life eternal by his resurrection rise.**

Prayer of the Day

M: O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** (Spoken)

First Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6

With praise and thanksgiving we rejoice that God has given us salvation full and free through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Psalm of the Day Psalm 30 (Page 76, front of Hymnal)

Through the resurrection of Jesus our sadness is turned into gladness, and weeping turned into rejoicing and singing.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Since Christ has been raised our sins are forgiven, and our bodies too will rise to eternal glory in heaven on the Last Day. Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Choir: "Resurrection Morning"

Gospel: John 20:1-18

Was Jesus' body stolen? Mary thought so. Peter and John found the tomb empty. Jesus appears to assure His followers of His resurrection. Mary reports, "I have seen the Lord!"

Confession of Faith: Luther's Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true!

Choir: "Jesus Lives!"

Congregation sings with choir:

**Christ lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Savior still the same!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
What joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!**

Message from God's Word: John 20:11-18 Easter Turns Our Tears of Sorrow to Tears of Joy!

1) We sorrow over sin and death.

- a. Mary's hopes had died with Jesus.
- b. At the grave she wept tears of sorrow.

Ultimately the world must sorrow since the last word spoken to life...will be spoken by death.

2) We rejoice over forgiveness and life through Christ.

- a. Mary's tears turn to joy when Jesus appears as conqueror over sin and death.
- b. Jesus would conquer the disciples sorrow and doubt.

The Easter gospel turns our sorrow to joy and death to life.

Offering

Responsive Prayer for Easter

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

C: Christ is risen!

M: For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C: He is risen indeed!

M: He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

C: Alleluia!

M: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power, which raised him from the dead.

C: We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

M: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

C: You are risen!

M: Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

C: You are risen indeed!

M: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

C: Alleluia!

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

C: He is risen!

M: As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

C: He is risen indeed!

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: The one who calls us is faithful, and He will do it. Amen.

Hymn 341 "Crown Him with Many Crowns!"

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We Welcome You to our Easter Son-rise worship. May Christ, who lives and reigns that we might live forever, continue to rule in your heart by faith. Guests, we invite you to join us again for worship. Please contact one of the pastors about our Bible Information Classes to review the Bible's main teachings by which the Holy Spirit keeps us alive in faith as we grow in His truth.

Easter Festival Worship (with Lord's Supper) is at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. We invite you back for one of these special Easter services to hear more of the Easter gospel and join in singing more of the hymns of resurrection victory.

Easter Fellowship Breakfast is served from 7:15 to 10:15 a.m. in our Fellowship Center on the lower level. We invite you to join us to enjoy our friendship in Christ!

The Altar Flowers were provided by Chuck Hynek. The Easter decorations were from the Nancy Peregrine Church Beautification Fund in conjunction with church members donations. Thank you to everyone for the beautiful Easter decorations.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!