

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

April 4, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “With High Delight Let Us Unite” -set. K. Hildebrand / T. Beck
“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” -set. K. Hildebrand

EASTER GREETING

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” *LSB* 457:1-2

1. Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

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CALL TO WORSHIP (*Selected verses from Psalm 118*)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation!

People: The LORD’s right arm has done marvelous things!

Pastor: The LORD’s right arm is raised in triumph.

People: The LORD’s right arm has done marvelous things!

Pastor: We will not die; instead, we will live to tell what the LORD has done.

People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Pastor: This is the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: This is the day the LORD has made.

Pastor: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

People: Christ is risen!

Pastor: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we gather today to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection, and His victory over sin, death, and the grave, let us draw near to Him with repentant hearts, confessing our sin, to receive His forgiveness and the blessings of His resurrection. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

People: Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Zechariah 14:8-11*

On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one. The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:14-18*

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 16:1-8*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He

rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON “The New Jerusalem”

Cities often spend big bucks on marketing. For example, a few years ago, Philadelphia spent *20 million dollars* on a campaign called “The City That Loves You Back.” They aren’t the only city or state to do that. When I would travel back and forth from Illinois to Indiana for Seminary, it was not uncommon to see along I-80 or 294 billboards that read, “Still Illinois? Live in Indiana!” When we lived in Michigan for a year, the state did a campaign called “Pure Michigan,” which featured beautiful nature scenes with this slogan plastered on it. When moving to Minnesota, I saw St. Paul’s marketing slogan. Do you know what it is? Would you agree with it? St. Paul boasts it is “The most livable city in America.” After living here for some time, I can agree with that statement. Cities can spend *big* bucks on marketing. While those slogans are memorable and give a taste of those various places, they don’t compare with the one I saw recently.

I recently came across this city marketing campaign. It said, “FREE! Beautiful mansions located in a perfect golden city with 100% clean water. There are no utility bills, flawless roads, perfect climate, and immunity from pandemics. We have beautiful music, free transportation, no taxes, no extra expenses and no fine print whatsoever.” Who can make an offer like that? To a city like that? To a future like that? Jesus. Jesus can. And Jesus does!

Although Jesus was betrayed, arrested, tormented, tortured—crucified, dead and buried; and although it was all ugly, vile and barbaric—it was not the end. *Good Friday was not the end!* Far from it! In fact, it was just the beginning! Christ is Risen! Death has no more dominion over him! Heaven’s best took hell’s worst and triumphed! The master of death could not destroy the Lord of Life! Christ Is risen!

For the past month and a half, we’ve been looking at the Old Testament prophet Zechariah. Today we come to the last chapter of the book—Zechariah 14—where the prophet rolls out his promotional campaign for the New Jerusalem, God’s forever home in heaven for all believers.

I see your thought bubbles! “How will talk about heaven *help me now*? I mean, really, Pastor Kooi! Heaven can wait, I have more pressing needs than some future reality!” Before you give up on this sermon, consider God’s promise.

God’s Promise: Hope for heaven tomorrow changes how I live on earth today. *Hope for heaven tomorrow changes how I live on earth today.* Hope keeps us from giving into despair—*now*. Hope helps us get out of bed and go to work—*now*. Hope gives meaning to daily life—*now*. Hope helps us to take that first step forward—*now*. Hope liberates us from the selfishness of fear and greed—*now*. What Jesus has won *today* gives hope for *tomorrow*. Zechariah saturates his promotion of the New Jerusalem with hope, a hope we so desperately need. The prophet makes five points.

He starts with **the hunger for the New Jerusalem**. Zechariah 14:2 says, “**I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem for battle and the city will be captured and the houses plundered and the women ravished. And half of the city will go forth into exile.**” Zechariah envisions Jerusalem overrun by marauding armies capturing, imprisoning and exiling half of the city’s citizens. What kind of marketing strategy is this? Why start with this? It is what every good campaign does. The prophet paints a picture of the *old* so we hunger for the *new*—the New Jerusalem!

The new is so much better than the old; the future is so much better than the past. Our past? It might not be that pretty. It can be full of frustrations and failures. It can be full of pain and deep disappointment. It can be full of deep and great regrets: shoulda, woulda, coulda. Our past is marked by selfishness and sin, pride and pretending.

Perhaps you’ve heard about the five-year old girl who spent the night with a friend. The little girl did fine during the day, but when it got dark, she got scared. The friend’s mother asked her, “Honey, are you homesick?” With childlike innocence the little girl replied, “No ma’am. I’m not homesick. I’m here sick!”

We’re *all* here sick. We’re sick of feeling isolated here. We are sick of living in fear here. We’re sick of tense relationships, high anxiety, financial fears, and political partisanship here. We’re sick of living in a

world scarred by and seeped in sin. We're sick of seeing the evil that humans can do to each other here. We're *all* sick here. That's Zechariah's point. There's a better place than here. It's *there*, the New Jerusalem, Heaven.

Zechariah then shows us **the Fighter for the New Jerusalem**. Zechariah 14:3, "**The LORD will go forth and fight.**" The LORD fights every enemy that stands in the way of our eternal life in the New Jerusalem. On Easter, Christ even defeats the last enemy—death! Life confronts death and guess what? Life wins. Death dies and life wins! Christ Is Risen!

"**The LORD will go forth and fight.**" God fights for His people. That is what Good Friday and Easter are all about. God fights for our health and for our family. He fights for our salvation and for our restoration. Are the odds against you? Is the Coronavirus against you? Is the economy against you? Are your emotions against you? These are unprecedented days, to be sure. Nevertheless, God goes forth to fight to get you to the New Jerusalem. God fights for you stuck in hopeless despair. He fights for you with the nervous twitch. He fights for you with the lost job. He fights for you with the bad business break, the bad credit score, and the bad attitude. Zechariah's campaign give us the Hunger for the New Jerusalem and the Fighter for the New Jerusalem. He next gives us the...

The Ruler over the New Jerusalem. Zechariah says, "**The LORD will be King.**" What will the LORD do as Ruler over the New Jerusalem? Zechariah 14:6–7—there will be no cold or frost. There will be no darkness, only light. Zechariah 14:8 says living water will flow out from Jerusalem. It will continue in summer and in winter. Drought and scarcity will give way to water and life. Zechariah 14:10, Jerusalem will rise above everything else, making the city a light on a hill.

And guess what? The LORD will be King over it all! In fact, the term "all," appears twelve times in Zechariah 14. Twelve? Twelve tribes in Israel. Twelve apostles. Twelve is the complete number in the Bible. Twelve announces all things—*all* things will be new! Perfect relationships (can you imagine that? Picture the best relationship in your life. That will pale in comparison to what is coming). Perfect bodies (no more pain, disease, or disability). Perfect bliss, perfect joy and perfect delight. It's because the LORD will be the Ruler over the New Jerusalem.

Zechariah then shows us **the Builder of the New Jerusalem**. "**Jerusalem shall dwell in security.**" (Zech 14:11) Cities are only as secure as their foundation and God, our Builder, lays a solid foundation. We have security—eternal security.

Security doesn't come by beating the odds. Security doesn't come from a savings account or good health. Security doesn't come from me, or anything that I own, can have, or do. Security comes from Jesus who says, "**I go to prepare a place for you.**" Christ builds the New Jerusalem where we will live in absolute security.

Have you ever heard the John Lennon song called *Imagine*? In it, he has a line that says, "Imagine there's no heaven, it's easy if you try. No hell below us, above us only sky." The New Jerusalem isn't just our imagination. The New Jerusalem isn't a pipe-dream or a sentimental wish. The New Jerusalem is real. When we die we will be with Christ and when Christ returns, He will build the New Jerusalem where we will dwell in absolute security—forevermore.

The prophet now ends by showing us **the Giver of the New Jerusalem**. "The LORD" appears 15 times in Zechariah 14. Yahweh. Life. On Easter we can believe it! God gives entrance to the New Jerusalem to *all* people regardless of age, gender, standing, past, position, race or nation. God gives entrance to *all* who believe.

A recent survey asked Americans, "What words give you the most hope?" Think about that for a second. What comes to mind? What would you say? Ready for the answers? At number one, we have "I love you." Number two? "I forgive you." Number three? "Supper's ready." These three phrases summarize our hope. God says, I love you ... I forgive you ... Supper's ready. That's the marriage feast of the Lamb in the New Jerusalem where we will sing an endless and deathless Hallelujah! Christ Is Risen!

Hope for tomorrow changes today. *Hope for heaven tomorrow changes how I live on earth today.* This promise cheers us in sorrow, strengthens us in trial, revives us when we lose hope, gladdens us when we feel despondent, and kindles in us an undying devotion to the truth of our Savior's shed blood, His empty tomb, and His free gift of everlasting life-Zechariah's New Jerusalem. Christ Is Risen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

MUSIC DURING PREPARATION “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” LSB 466

Words for meditation:

1. Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!
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PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is our duty and delight at all times and in every place to give You praise and thanksgiving, O Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose resurrection from the dead has shown that He is the victor over sin and the grave and that all who trust in Him shall be raised from death to everlasting life. As He has cast off the veil of sin and its darkness, bring us into the light of His presence, where we shall feast with anticipation upon the bread of life and the cup of salvation until that day when we shall be reunited with those who have gone before and sing Your praise in heaven. Remembering the apostles and evangelists to whom our Lord appeared and whose witness has delivered to us the Good News of His resurrection, we join with angels and archangels and the whole company of the saints in light in their unending hymn of praise:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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

Pastor: 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."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION "Give to Our God Immortal Praise" -John Hatton

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” *LSB* 465

1. Now all the vault of heav’n resounds

In praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Eternal is the gift He brings,

Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Now still He comes to give us life

And by His presence stills all strife.

Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;

Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through Your triumph;

Grant grace sufficient for life’s day

That by our lives we truly say:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. Adoring praises now we bring

And with the heav’nly blessed sing:

“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”

Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most holy God,

All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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POSTLUDE “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” -set. Kevin Hildebrand

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *John 20:1* – “Now on the first day of the week ...” All is made new by the Resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament’s Saturday Sabbath to the Lord’s Day of the New Testament. For the Lord has made all things new. He has begun a new week for a new creation in rising from the dead as the New Adam. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, and a new outlook toward God. All this comes from our Risen Lord’s grace. Especially after the sort of year we’ve had since last Easter. It’s sure good news to hear that the Lord makes all things start afresh.

SHOES: The countdown has begun! We are less than a month away from the kickoff for our shoe drive collection. Have you cleaned out your closet yet? Check out the narthex for some information on where your shoes could end up and the do's and don'ts of shoe donation. Thanks! The youth really appreciate your support.

EMMAUS BOARD NOMINATIONS: It's that time of year again. As mentioned in the April newsletter, we are looking for a few helping hands. Please consider how you can assist the ministry of Emmaus through your service. If you have an interest in helping on one of our boards or would like more information, please connect with Nicole P, Pastor Kooi, Todd P or Pam U.

OFFICE CLEAN UP: After Easter, we are going to be cleaning up the office. If you have left anything in the office for someone to pick up, for temporary storage or any other reason, please either remove it or label it by April 1st. We want to make sure that our office workspaces are available for Maria and not used as a "catch all." Thanks for your assistance!

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

BUTTER BRAIDS!!! Concordia Academy's choir students are selling butter braids to raise funds for choir tour in 2022. Though Marie Galligan will have graduated then, she is still collecting orders, and the proceeds will go to the general choir program. Orders can be placed through Marie by April 9th.

LWML SPRING RALLY: For freedom Christ has set you free! (Gal. 5:1) Join us on April 10 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. for a Bible study and mission talk with Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller, Pastor at Jehovah Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN. Pastor Miller will lead us in a study of Galatians 5:1-6, 13-15 and talk with us about an opportunity for mission and mercy in the St. Paul Midway neighborhood. This event will be virtual and can be accessed through Emmaus Lutheran Church's website or Facebook page. Please note that one does not need Facebook to watch the event. Just click on the link, and it will take you right to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nick Kooi at 651-424-6294 or pastornkooi@gmail.com.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "What It Means to Be a Family" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling. Loving, caring, and sharing—it's what we do as God's family, His Church. (Acts 4:32-35)

CONCORDIA ACADEMY AT-HOME GALA IS FREE FOR EVERYONE! On April 17, Concordia Academy's annual Dinner Auction becomes an At-Home Gala! This free, 45-minute, online event features entertainment by Triple Espresso's Bob Stromberg, touching stories from CA families, games of chance, and fun surprises. CA is excited to welcome attendees from all over the country, so spread the news to all the Beacons fans that you know. Visit www.concordiaacademy.com/gala for all the details, including how to register for this free event.

REGISTER FOR CONCORDIA ACADEMY CAMPS: This summer, Concordia Academy offers over 30 sports, arts, and STEM summer camps for elementary, middle, and high school students. New offerings include Cardboard Creations, Coding, Stop Motion Animation, and Sweet Treats & Healthy Eats! Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/camps to get details and register.