



## **Easter Festival Service**

March 31, 2014 - Easter Sunday

Mark 16:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15 (select)

I told you I could; I told you I would. I told you so. I'm right! I'm vindicated! It feels so good to be right, to be seen as right, to be called right - to be vindicated, doesn't it?

We see it in the courtroom - after a long, hard trial - when the verdict is announced - one side or the other feels vindicated. We see it in the classroom, perhaps at work, the assignment, the project seems impossible; you've been told again and again (by voices in here and out there) that you can't do it; but after a long, hard struggle, you pull it together, you get it right - like you said you would - and your teacher or your boss smiles and says: "Well done!" - vindicated! We see it where [you fill in the blank]? After you get blamed for what they did, the truth comes out - vindicated! We feel it in a hug, after a difficult and dark time that maybe we made darker and more difficult than it needed to be - we feel it in the hug that says: "You're right by me." It feels so good to be accepted as alright. Let me say it again - it feels so good to be seen as right, to be called right - to be vindicated, doesn't it?

Go back to that first Easter. Who felt right that first Easter morning? It wasn't the disciples; they were in hiding, afraid that those who went after Jesus would come after them. It wasn't the women who had been following Jesus. They had watched him die; they had seen him buried; now they were on the way to Jesus' tomb make sure he got a proper burial. So who felt right that first Easter morning? It wasn't those closest to Jesus. Even after the sun came up, they were still in the dark. For weeks, months, years, they had heard Jesus promise the life they longed for, they had heard him promise a life and a love only God could deliver. And with Jesus, it wasn't just talk. For weeks, months, years, they had seen Jesus show a life and a love only God can live. They had seen Jesus do things only God can do - he healed the sick, fed the hungry, even raised the dead. They thought Jesus was the One, the Savior God had promised, the One who would give them life and make life right the way it's supposed to be. But now they saw his enemies, their enemies - arrest him, charge him, accuse him, put him on trial, and sentence him to the cross - and Jesus didn't do anything to stop them. They saw Jesus on the cross - and he didn't do anything to save himself. They saw Jesus buried, and could only imagine he was still dead.

We're told they felt afraid, confused, hopeless. I wonder how wrong, how stupid, how embarrassed, how guilty they felt. "What's going to happen, what's going to go wrong next? What am I supposed to do? How could he? How could I? Why didn't I? How am I ever going to face the world again?"

We know those feelings, don't we? When judgment hits someone close to us, when any trouble hits anyone close to us, we wonder, "When will it be my turn?" When we're confused, "What's going on? This isn't right..." when our hopes are crushed so small, what seems so big? The wrong around us, the wrong inside us.

So what do we do? We do what those closest to Jesus did. Sometimes we run and hide like the disciples. Sometimes we just try to make things look as right as we can like the women who went to make sure Jesus got a proper burial. Sometimes we hang our heads like we're beaten like the Emmaus disciples. And sometimes we just surrender to the darkness in us and around us, like Judas. We have some idea of what it feels like to be wrong, to be seen as wrong, to be called wrong, don't we? And it's awful, isn't it?

Jesus knows something of what it feels like to be wrong, to be called wrong, to be seen as wrong. On Good Friday, Jesus saw the pointing fingers; he heard his name and the charges, accusations made against him; he saw the sneers of contempt; he felt what it is like to be treated as guilty and wrong - mocked and ridiculed and torn into; on the cross, he felt what it's like to be treated as the worst of the worst. Before family and friends and the world he was paraded and shown off as wrong. Not just by man, but by God. The LORD laid on Jesus our guilt, and then cursed and crushed him as guilty. The pain, the heartbreak, is beyond imagining. In everything that Jesus ever thought, said, or did, Jesus had never crossed his Father; he had always lived a perfect life of perfect love for his Father. So now, to be crossed by his Father, to be called wrong, seen as wrong, paraded as wrong, treated as wrong by his Father - it hurt with a hurt that had Jesus crying out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!"

Jesus knew why. Jesus was taking your place and my place as wrong before God. He was taking the place of that one you know who always beats herself up for what she has done. He was taking the place of that one who always acts on the outside like his sin is no big deal, but on the inside he so hurts. He was taking the place of the one who tries and tries and tries to do what is right, but it seems, never gets it right enough. He was taking the place of that one who takes hold of his or her wrong as their right to do whatever they want. He was taking my place and your place as guilty and wrong before God. Why? To be judged in our place. To pay for us. To make things right for us. Why? So God can see you and call you and count you “right” with Jesus on Easter Sunday.

I asked, “Who felt right that first Easter Sunday morning?” Jesus did. The Bible tells this Truth two ways. The God who judged Jesus as wrong on Friday, on Sunday he raised him to life as right - vindicated! The Jesus who let himself be judged wrong on Friday raised himself to life, showing himself as right on Sunday. Raised as right, early Sunday morning, Jesus went down into hell - he showed himself as alive and well; he paraded himself as alive and right. Death and the devil couldn’t hold on to him. Satan couldn’t make his lies and accusations stick. On Easter Sunday morning, Jesus went to hell and showed himself vindicated!

And then Jesus went on tour around Jerusalem showing himself as alive, right, and vindicated. Oh, this is neat - he didn’t keep all the good news to himself. Sometimes he let his angels have the first say in sharing the Good News. Sometimes he let the women who went to bury him ... sometimes he let his disciples who had gone into hiding ... sometimes he let them stumbling, bumbling have the first say in sharing the Good News. Sometimes he lets us have the first say in sharing the Good News.

And what is that Good News? Christ is risen! The One this world crucified as wrong is alive; the One God judged and cursed in our place is alive! And he’s not on a warpath looking to get even; he’s not out to make us pay for what he went through. No, he’s on parade promising peace. Peace for those who have wronged God; peace for those who have wronged God’s world; peace for those who feel wrong in them and around them - with Jesus, you are forgiven. Peace for those living in fear; peace for those struggling

with anxiety and depression, worry and addictions; peace for those living on the edge - with Jesus, you have God holding you safe as his. Peace for those facing death - with Jesus, you have life ahead of you, life made right with God in heaven.

With Jesus, it doesn't matter what wrong you have in you or in your past. With Jesus, it doesn't matter what wrong you have around you. With Jesus, you get to live vindicated. Alive and right to live a life different than this dying world. Alive and right to put wrong in its place. Alive and right to share peace in its place. Alive and right to live the Jesus-life! Why? Join me in saying it: Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!** Amen.

## EASTER SUNDAY 2024

**WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS** and pray that all who are with us today are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns and by an encouraging and warm welcome. Our worship service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ: forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven. The notes below may be helpful for your worship and time with us today. If you have questions, please ask! We are blessed to have you with us!

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### **We Care about Your Children**

We love to have children with us in worship.

If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

### **We Care about Your Special Needs**

*Hearing Assistance* for those with hearing aids is provided through our *Hearing Loop*. More information is available from an usher.

A *wheelchair lift* is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



### **Our Facilities**

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.



# The Resurrection of Our Lord

March 31, 2024

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## Pre-Service Music

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

Wilbur Held

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

*Easter Prelude*

Sam Ellson

*Make Songs of Joy*

Setting by Kevin Hildebrand

*This Joyful Eastertide*

Setting by Donald Busarow

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

Healey Willan

## Order of Service

### Opening Hymn

*"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"*

Hymn 438

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!

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!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Minster: Christ is risen!  
Congregation: **He is risen, indeed!**

### Easter Dialogue

M: This is the day the Lord has made;

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** *(Psalm 118:24)*

M: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

*(Ephesians 2:4-7)*

C: **Since we have been raised with Christ, we set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.** *(Colossians 3:1)*

M: Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. *(Colossians 3:2-3)*

C: **When Christ, who is our life, appears, then we also will appear with him in glory.** *(Colossians 3:4)*

M: Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. *(Romans 6:3-4)*

C: **What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?** *(Romans 6:1-2)*

M: But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. *(1 John 2:1)*

C: **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.** *(1 John 2:2)*

M: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed!**



## Choir

## "Christ Is Risen"

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is

ris - en, ris - en in - deed! Hal - le - lu - jah!

*Love's work is done; the battle is won. Where now, O death, is your sting?  
He rose again to rule and to reign, Jesus, our conquering King. Refrain*

*Lord over sin, Lord over death, At his feet Satan must fall!  
Ev'ry knee bow; all will confess Jesus is Lord over all! Refrain*

*Tell it abroad, "Jesus is Lord!" Shout it and let your praise ring!  
Gladly we raise our songs of praise; Worship is our offering. Refrain*

## The Word of God

**M:** Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and always rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## First Lesson

*Job 19:23-27*

"Oh, that my words were recorded,  
that they were written on a scroll,  
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,  
or engraved in rock forever!

I know that my redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.  
And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;  
I myself will see him  
with my own eyes—I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!"

**Hymn**

*"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"*  
**Hymn 444**

**Second Lesson**

*1 Corinthians 15:19–28*

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

**Choir Hymn**

*"There Is a Higher Throne"*  
**Hymn 885**

*There is a higher throne than all this world has known,  
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.  
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;  
believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes.*

**Refrain**

*Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings  
through em'erald courts and sapphire skies; their praises rise.  
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are  
to God our King who reigns on high forevermore.*

*And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;  
we'll honor him in perfect song where we belong.  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die;  
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King; we'll reign with him. Refrain*

### **The Gospel of the Resurrection**

*Mark 16:1-8*

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

M: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed!**

### **Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed**

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.

Hymn of the Day

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

Hymn 440 v. 1-6

Men sing v. 3

Women sing v. 4

1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands for our of -  
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, such ru - in  
 Men 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, his peo - ple  
 Women 4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and  
 fens - es giv - en; but now at God's right hand he  
 sin had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on  
 to de - liv - er; de - stroy - ing sin, he took the  
 death con - tend - ed. The vic - to - ry re - maind with  
 stands and brings us life from heav - en.  
 earth, and there - fore death had brought us  
 crown from death's pale brow for - ev - er.  
 life, the reign of death was end - ed.  
 There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing to  
 in - to bond - age from of old and ev - er  
 Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns; an emp - ty  
 Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly saith that death is  
 God right thank - ful - ly loud songs of  
 grew more strong and bold and held us  
 form a - lone re - mains; its sting is  
 swal - lowed up by death; dis - graced, it  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 lies de - feat - ed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here the true Pas - chal Lamb we see, whom God so  
6 So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the  
free - ly gave us; he died on the ac - curs - ed  
Lord in - vites us; Christ is him - self the joy of  
tree - so strong his love - to save us.  
all, the sun that warms and lights us.  
See, his blood now marks our door; faith points to  
Now his grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal  
it; death pass - es o'er, and Sa - tan  
sun - shine to our hearts; the night of  
can - not harm us. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon

*"Vindication"*  
Mark 16:1-8

Hymn

*"In Christ Alone"*  
Hymn 510

**Easter Prayer**

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

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, 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: Take away our doubts and fears, and renew in us daily the joy of our salvation.**

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

**C: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.**

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

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

M: As we journey through life,

**C: make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring to 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, receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### Closing Blessing

M: Go now into God's creation with bold confidence, living and declaring the truth that Jesus is alive. Go in the grace, the peace, and the strength of the Father who has raised the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

C: **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

*"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"*

**Hymn 441**

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my everliving head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;  
he lives all-glorious in the sky; he lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;  
he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;  
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;  
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;  
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

### Postlude

*"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

Jeff Bennett

## Gathering of Offering

An offering can be an act of cheerful worship to thank God for his blessings and to support his ministry at St. John. We have an offering plate at the front of the church and an old wooden church in the back entry. The vast majority of our church and school ministry is made possible by our weekend offerings. May the Lord bless you! And may he use your gifts to be a blessing to many others!



*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code with your mobile device.*

## Service Participants

**Preacher and Presiding Minister**

**Organist**

**Choir Director**

**Choir**

**Musicians**

Pastor Kevin Raddatz

Mrs. Monica Wintrone

Dr. Tim Samelson

St. John Senior Choir

Mr. Greg Haak, *flute*

Mr. Louis Luedtke, *trumpet*

Mr. Steve Lemerand, *timpani*

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