

 **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

 **Pontiac, IL**

 **April 4, 2021**

 **Resurrection of our Lord:**

 **Easter Day**

**We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.**

**Welcome**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God’s Peace be with you

**Introduction to the day**

**Introduction**

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ’s death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God’s unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

### *Weather permitting the congregation will gather outside to begin the service and celebrate Christ's resurrection.*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

 *Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

L: We thank you risen Christ,

 For these waters where you make us new,

 Leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

 We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us

 In the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

 Like rains to our thirsting earth,

 Like streams that revive our souls,

 Like cups of cool water shared with strangers,

 Breathe your peace on your church when we are afraid.

 Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

 Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

 Make us one, risen Christ.

 Cleanse our hearts.

 Shower us with life.

 To you be given all praise,

 With the Holy Spirit,

 In the glory of God,

 Now and forever. And all God’s people said...

**A: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn Jesus Christ is Risen Today ELW 365**

***after the hymn, the congregation processes inside following the cross. During this time the organ is played***

**Greeting**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

 Holy Spirit be with you all**.**

**A: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his

glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin,

that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your son, Jesus Christ

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

 **WORD**

**Reading –** **Isaiah 25: 6-9**

6On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples

  a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,

  of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

 7And he will destroy on this mountain

  the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

  the sheet that is spread over all nations;

  8he will swallow up death forever.

 Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,

  and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,

  for the Lord has spoken.

 9It will be said on that day,

  Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

  This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

  let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L:Word of God, Word of life.

A**: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Reading- Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24**

L: A reading from Psalm.

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
  God’s mercy endures forever.
 2**Let Israel now declare,**
  **“God’s mercy endures forever.”**
 14The Lord is my strength and my song,
  and has become my salvation.
 15**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**
  **“The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**
 16The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
  The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”
 17**I shall not die, but live,**
  **and declare the works of the Lord.**
 18The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
  but did not hand me over to death.
 19**Open for me the gates of righteousness;**
  **I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**
 20“This is the gate of the Lord;
  here the righteous may enter.”
 21**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**
  **and you have become my salvation.**
 22The stone that the builders rejected
  has become the chief cornerstone.
 23**By the Lord has this been done;**
  **it is marvelous in our eyes.**
 24This is the day that the Lord has made;
  let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L: Holy wisdom. Holy word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading-Acts 10: 34-43**

A reading from Acts.

34Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

(spoken responsively)

L: *Alleluia.* Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed.

**A: Therefore, let us keep the feast. *Alleluia*.**

**Gospel–Mark 16: 1-8**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

1When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus’ body]. 2And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” 4When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” 8So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O, Christ.**

**Sermon Pastor Mathew Berger**

**Hymn of the Day Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds ELW 367**

**Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends “for Christ is risen”. The congregation is invited to respond, **“Christ is risen indeed.”**

**Sharing the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by saying or typing, “Peace be with you.”*

**MEAL**

**Offering**

*Offerings can be given by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764. You can give online at* [*http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/*](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/)

**Offertory Music Glorious Day Casting Crowns**

**Offering Prayer**

L: God of love,

 You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

 Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

 Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;

 For the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn saying

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of power and might,**

 **heaven and earth are full of your glory**

 **Hosanna in the highest,**

 **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

 **Hosanna in the highest.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

L: Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,

and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,

that we may live as your people,

clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever, and all God’s people said...

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**A: 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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

L: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**Communion Hymn Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW 172**

 **Hallelujah, We Sing your Praises ELW 535**

 **We Come to the Hungry Feast ELW 479**

**Prayer After Communion**

*a blessing is given, a prayer follows*

L: Wellspring of joy,

 Through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.

 Satisfy the hunger still around us,

 And send us as joyful witnesses,

 That your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,

 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

 **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

L: Mary our Glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom

 To know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

 The God of life,

 Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

 Bless you now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude The Strife is O’er**

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today’s service: Worship Slides: Julie Mehlberg,

Ushers: Denny & Mary Leach, Livestream: Louis Kehinde, Sound: John Mehlberg

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**Easter Lillies Donated**

*Dawn Boitnott In Memory of deceased family members*

*Rosemary Sutton In Memory of Patrick & David Sutton*

*Carol Thorson In Memory of Oscar Thorson*

*Bill Frazier In Memory of parents William & Dorothy Frazier*

*Sue Garfinkle In Memory of parents Irene & Don Berg*

*Judy Sykes In Memory of Melvin Sykes & Loved ones*

*Tom & Becky Heinrich In memory of Anne Rhodes*

*Marvin & Darlene Miller In memory of parents*

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*Ted & Ginger Bauknecht To the Glory of God*

*Ed & Maurine Gentes In Honor of Family Members*

*Jr. & Kris Lambert In Memory of Jill Bane*

*Jeanne Rapp To the Glory of God*

*Julie & John Mehlberg In Memory of Loved Ones*

*Darlene Leach & family In Memory of Clara Leach, Earl Leach, Sandy*

 *Davis, Triplet girls*

*Pat Lund To the Glory of God and memory of*

 *Loved ones*

*Sandy Erickson In Memory of John and Jim Erickson*

*Mary Lou & Don Bevers In Memory of Alane Abry, Chuck Knudson & Bill*

 *& Alice Bevers*