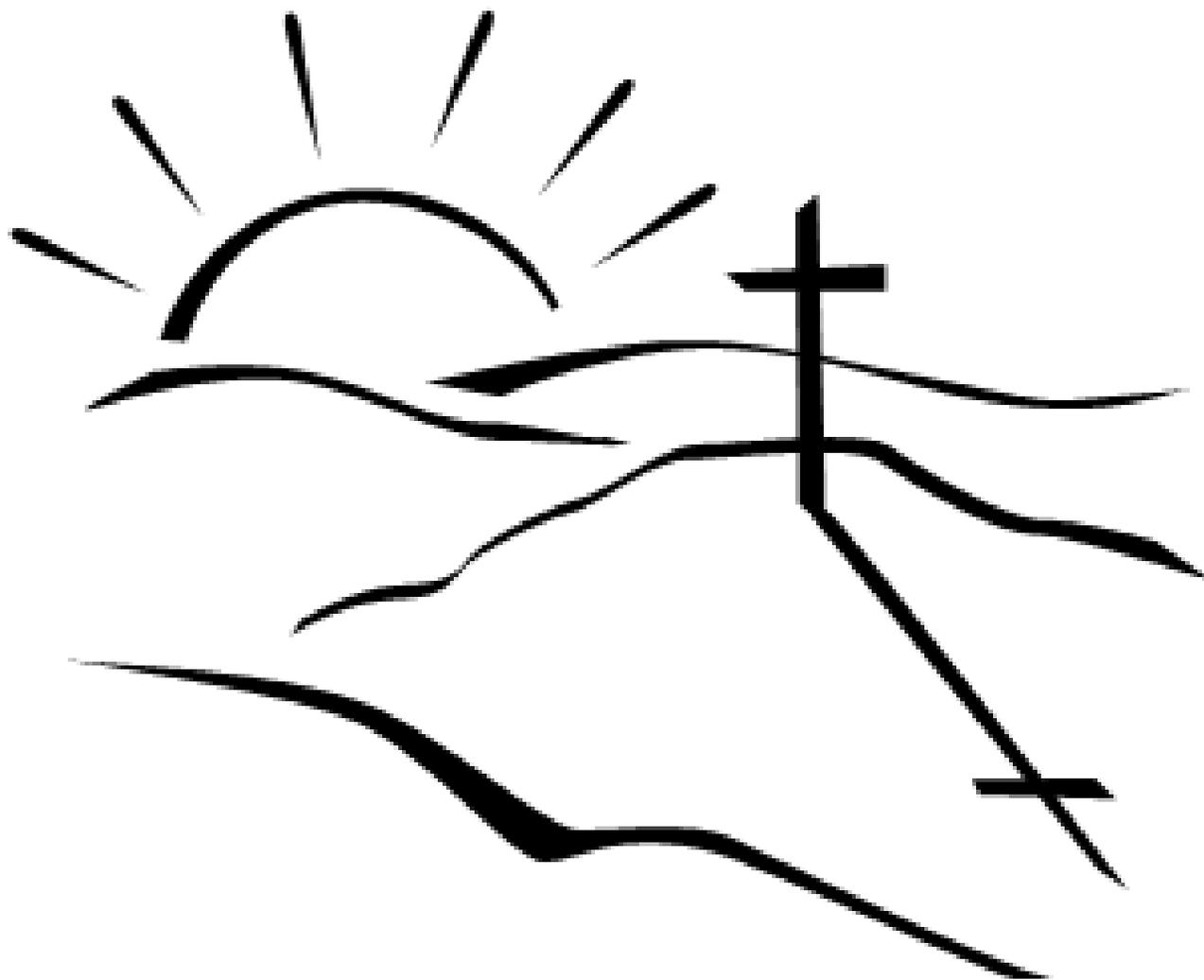


The Resurrection of Our Lord

March 27, 2016—Easter Sunrise Service



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Easter Sunrise Narration and Anthem (Hymn 144 — Christ Is Arisen)

The Lighting of the Altar Candles and the Easter Candle

Easter Dialogue:

M: He is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

M: Why do you look for the living among the dead?

C: He is not here. He has risen, just as he said.

M: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Death has been swallowed up in victory!

C: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

M: The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the Law

C: But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

Hymn: #150 — *Christ the Lord is Risen Today: Alleluia* (Please stand for verse 4)

M: As we gather early this morning to marvel at the empty tomb of Jesus, we must confess we are not worthy to **come into God's presence. Let us confess our sins.**

All: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

M: He is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed! We thank you, God, for the joy you give us this morning. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Hallelujah!

Remain standing to sing:

Hymn #159

Morning breaks upon the tomb
Jesus scatters all its gloom
Day of triumph through the skies
See the glorious Savior rise

You who are of death afraid
Triumph in the scattered shade
Drive your anxious cares away
See the place where Jesus lay

Christian, dry your flowing tears
Chase your unbelieving fears
Look on his deserted grave
Doubt no more his pow'r to save

1. What a difference a day made for Peter and John

John 20:1-9 — Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Our response: Hymn #156 — *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness* (vv. 1-3)

2. What a difference a day made for Mary Magdalene

John 20:10-18 — Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Our response: Hymn #156 — *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness* (vv. 4-5)

3. What a difference a day made for the disciples

John 20:19-23 — On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Our response: Hymn #149 — *Christ The Lord is Risen Today*

4. What a difference a day (week) made for Thomas

John 20:24-28 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my

hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Our response: Hymn #142 — *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

5. What a difference a day makes for us

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 — But 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. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your 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. 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. 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. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Sunrise Devotion — *Why Remember His Death on the Day of his Resurrection?* (1 Corinthians 15:19-26)

We gather our Easter Sunrise offerings

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution:

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it **and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion (for confirmed members of Bethany and confirmed members of our Wisconsin Synod sister churches)

Easter Sunrise Prayer

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 newness of life and ever 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.

The Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn - #166 — *The Day of Resurrection*