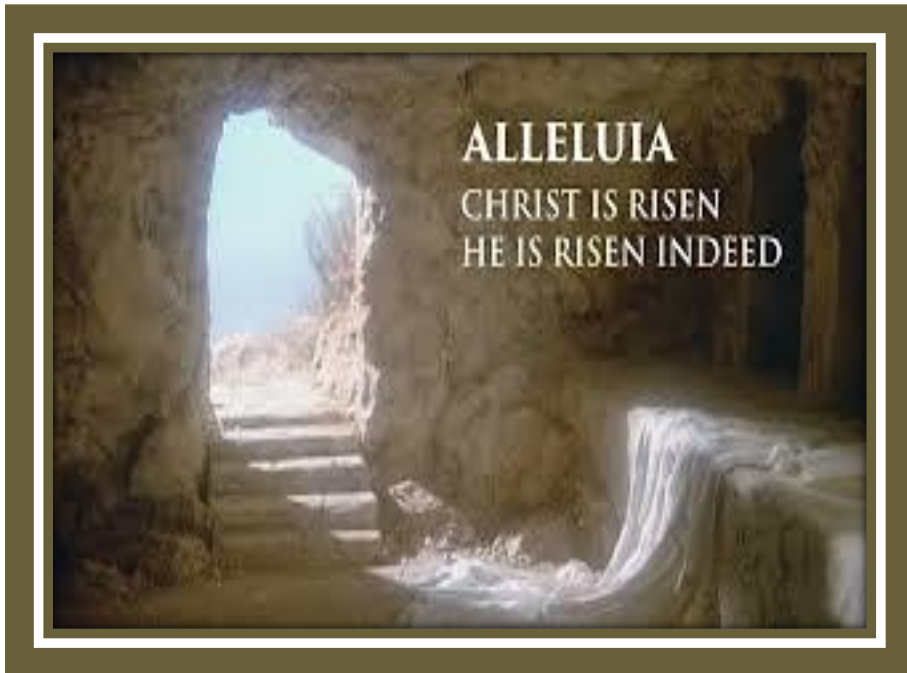


**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
*A Festival Celebration of*  
*Word, Prayer, and Music*  
*April 12, 2020*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**85 East Brandt Boulevard**  
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*United in Christ*  
*we are called to love and serve.*

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**PRELUDE**

*Fanfare on 'Easter Hymn'*

J. Behnke

**THE EASTER PROCLAMATION**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, welcome to worship on Easter Sunday 2020. The tomb is empty! Darkness has been conquered. Our sins are forgiven. Glory fills the world, and the light of the risen Savior shines on us. Thanks be to the risen Christ! Alleluia!

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*  
(Trumpet & Organ)

ELW 365

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'n-ly 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!

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead; he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Open our minds and hearts to the risen life we share with Christ, and help us grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **† THE WORD †**

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how 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. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not 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. He 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from Colossians.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*  
Trumpet and Organ

J. S. Bach

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him. This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

Pastor Barbara Caruana

*Alleluia, Christ is Risen.  
He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!*

The story is certainly familiar. It should be. After all, one-quarter of the material we have in the gospels is dedicated to it. In the pre-dawn darkness of the first day of the week, some of Jesus’ most devoted friends – women – made their way to the garden of Joseph of Arimathea, to the tomb where their Lord had been laid after being taken down from the cross. The embalming process has begun on Friday afternoon, but because of Sabbath restrictions against work, it couldn’t be finished until now. So here are the women, ready to complete their somber task.

Such foolish women! What about the stone? In front of the opening to the tomb was groove in the ground; and in the groove ran a huge circular stone, sort of like a cartwheel; and the stone had been wheeled into position to close the opening. In fact, the authorities had actually sealed that stone to make sure no one would move it. What’s that you say? The stone was rolled away? That’s right. That’s how the story goes.

A Sunday School teacher told a story about an Easter pageant staged with her class. When it came time to assign parts, some children wanted to be soldiers, other the women at the tomb, and others, the apostles. One little boy, however, insisted on playing the stone that was used to block the opening of the tomb. The teacher said to the little boy, “Don’t you

want a speaking part?” “Nope,” said the little boy, “I want to be the stone.” So the teacher asked him why and this is what he said: “I want to be the stone because it will feel so good to let Jesus out of the tomb.” That was one smart little kid.

Have you ever wondered about that stone? A stone is a stone is a stone. Right? Big deal. But this one was a really *big* deal – probably a couple hundred pounds ... more than the average woman or angel could handle. The Easter story says many things, and one of them is that our God, in addition to everything else, is in the business of “rolling stones.”

In March of 1999, *Newsweek* magazine published a story about the continuing influence of Jesus in the United States. I realize 1999 was a long time ago, but I think the story has relevance to today. As part of the story, they did a survey in which they posed the following question: “Do you believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead after dying on the cross?” At that time, 88% of Christians said “Yes”; 32% of non-Christians also said, “Yes”! Almost one-third! That’s amazing. What should we make of that? Maybe folks who have seen one miracle after another in the world of quantum physics and micro-processors are less astounded by the face of physical resurrection than we might have thought.

The new question then becomes, “So what?” Does Jesus’ resurrection have anything to do with you and me? Can it fill our emptiness and dry our tears? Can it change our lives?

The answer may be as near as that stone ... the one that’s stopping you from really living ... that really *big* stone. Maybe that stone even has a name ... like guilt. Maybe something you’ve done or failed to do is haunting you. The first disciples must have felt it ... they had let Jesus down horribly. But Easter came and the stone was rolled away. Do you have a stone named guilt? Lord, come again, and roll away the stone.

Maybe your stone is fear. The first disciples felt it ... cowering behind closed doors. But Easter came and rolled that stone away too ... opening the path to a fearless faith. Do you have a stone named fear? Lord, come again, and roll away the stone.

Maybe your stone is weakness, something that’s taken control of you that won’t let loose. The disciples felt helpless and hopeless, too. But Easter came and rolled the stone away, and they were remarkably changed. Do you have a stone named weakness? Lord, come again, and roll away the stone.

Our stones may have many names. The good news of this resurrection morning is that our God is a God of rolling stones. Lord, come again, and roll away our stones.

Alleluia! Amen! And may each of you have a happy and blessed Easter!

**NICENE CREED**

P: On this special day filled with joy and hope, let us join together( from wherever you are) by professing our faith.

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

**AN EASTER PRAYER**

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning, we sing Alleluia with the fullness of hearts. Christ is Risen! Love is stronger than Death! Alleluia!

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning, in the midst of our singing and shouting, we know there are those who are bewildered and sad. We pray for those that have no hope, and for those who suffer from depression, loneliness, and fear.

We pray for those places and peoples in our world where death and domination rule, where ruling leaders ignore the poor, where war never ends, where children are hungry, where parents grieve because they can't provide, where accidents happen and death abounds senselessly. We pray for those held hostage by addiction and chronic illnesses that are debilitating.

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning, we realize the depth and breadth of what it means to be your Easter people. For we are the ones who are called to go into the places in our lives and world to work for justice and life for all in your Creation. It is up to us to bear witness to the promise of resurrection, to hold those in despair, and believe for them, that Love is stronger than death.

In the joy and hope of this Easter morning, O God, give us the courage to bear your living Love in every corner of our lives, so that your peaceable realm will be here on earth, as it is in heaven.

In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray,  
Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **EASTER BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

As Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world. And may that same Christ, who lives forever and is the source of our new life, keep your hearts rejoicing and grant you peace this day and always. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen.

### **HYMN**

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

ELW 367

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! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



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!

Oh, 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!

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!

**POSTLUDE**

*Festive Trumpet Tune*  
(Trumpet and Organ)

D. German



† ☉ †  
**HE IS RISEN**