

**Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GREETING

He is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb

is nothing more than a prank.

Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths

and still holding tight to death.

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope

when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of new beginnings, On that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts, we listen and we pray, amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

Was it a Morning Like This

Lisa Symonds

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.' ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

#367

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We may weep through the longest nights.
We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.
We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.
But today, we are a people of hope.
We believe in new beginnings.
We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.
We believe that Jesus abides among us,
healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.
We believe that a tomb could not hold him.
We believe that the sun does rise.
We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.
We believe that the story is not over yet,
for God is among us.
Today we are a people of hope.

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

#364

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

#376

SENDING

Was it a Morning Like This

By Jim Croegaert

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