Sunday, April 1, 2018
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

INTRODUCTION
This year may be the one in which John’s resurrection account is likely to be chosen over Mark’s, perhaps because Mark’s gospel ends so abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. Corinthians and Acts fill out the story by telling of appearances of the risen Christ. Peter says we “ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.” And so do we, in a foretaste of the mountaintop feast where death will be no more.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

_All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins._

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

Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

_We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life._

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for the Ogallala Aquifer, the Platte River and its tributaries, and for the Fremont State Lakes.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.
GATHERING SONG

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

All

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

2 Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Fixed refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY
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. Amen.

WORD
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43
A reading from the Book of Acts.

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, so that God’s forgiveness in Jesus’ name would reach out to the Gentiles just as it had to Jews.

34 Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 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. 39 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; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 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. 42 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. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who
believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his
name.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

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

*This is the day that the L ORD has made; let us rejoice and be
glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

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1 Give thanks to the L ORD, for the | L ORD is good;
   God’s mercy en- | dures forever.
2 Let Israel | now declare,
   “God’s mercy en- | dures forever.”
14 The L ORD 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 | L ORD acts valiantly!
16 The right hand of the L ORD| is exalted!
   The right hand of the | L ORD acts valiantly!”
17 I shall not | die, but live,
   and declare the works | of the L ORD.
18 The L ORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
   but did not hand me o- | ver to death.
19 Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
   I will enter them and give thanks | to the L ORD.
20 “This is the gate | of the L ORD;
   here the righ- | teous may enter.”
21 I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
   and you have become | my salvation.
22 The stone that the build- | ers rejected
   has become the chief | cornerstone.
23 By the L ORD has | this been done;
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it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul’s preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the risen Lord in the preaching of this faith.

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

2 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
When 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]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But 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. But 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.” So 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.
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY
Hallelujah for the Cross – Newsboys

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**

On this day of rejoicing, we pray for the life of the church, the world, and all people in any need.

*A brief silence.*

You give life to your church by joining the baptized to the body of Christ. Bless the newly baptized (especially) as we proclaim the one whose death and resurrection makes us one in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give life to the creation by renewing the earth in every season. Curb our exploitation of natural resources, and cause us to preserve the health of plant and animal habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give life to the world by laying a cornerstone among the nations. Rebuild the powers and principalities around us in
ways that protect the vulnerable and raise up the lowly. 
Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You give life to those in need by the anointing of your Holy Spirit. Comfort those who suffer, encourage those who care for the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and wipe away the tears of all who mourn. We pray especially for . . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give life to this community of faith by infusing us with love for one another. Inspire us to reach out to our neighbors in meaningful ways and bring the joys of community to a wider family of people. WE pray especially for our brothers and sisters at First Lutheran in Omaha. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You give life to your saints by setting a banquet table of rich food. Feed us with the bread of life and bring us with all your saints to the feast that has no end. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the spring of new and everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

**PEACE**
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**
MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY – verses 1 & 4

1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we Christ, whose love divine gives his
3 Where the paschal blood is poured death’s dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal

our victorious king, who has washed us in the tide
sacred blood for wine, gives his body for the feast—
angel sheathes the sword; Israel’s hosts triumphant go
victim, paschal bread; with sincerity and love

flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!
Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!
eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER
Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE
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.**

**PREFACE**

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:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

![Musical notation]

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
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.
With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
*Come, Holy Spirit.*

With *name/s and* your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
*Amen.*

**LORD’S PRAYER**
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

*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**
Now let us feast this Easter day
on Christ, the bread of heaven. *Hallelujah!*

**COMMUNION**
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
COMMUNION SONGS

Fanfare for Easter – Handbell Choir

All Heaven Declares – Noel & Tricia Richards

Above All – Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloche

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.
SENDING OF COMMUNION
Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING
May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG
DISMISSAL
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.
POSTLUDE
Grand Chouer Dialogue – Eugene Gigout