



Easter Sunday
Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
April 17th, 2022

Mary Magdalene, Joana, Mary the mother of James, and the other women go to the tomb with spices to tend to Jesus' body. When they find the tomb empty and are stunned by the presence and words of the men in dazzling clothing, they remember. They remember what Jesus had said, which compels them to go out and tell the story. Even in utter shock, they return to their deepest knowing and allow themselves to receive the expansiveness of resurrection. Their imaginations and hearts expand, and they must take action in response. Many of the disciples won't open themselves to this expansiveness and reject it. Peter is curious enough to return to the tomb, and as a result, he is filled with amazement and awe. How do we carry forth what we have learned this Lent? Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope? Can we trust in the expansive promise of new life, and carry that promise with us wherever we go?

Call to Worship

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!!**

This day is not like any other day. **Today we slow down. Today we take it all in. Today we rest in good news.**

This day is not like any other day. **Today we are singing. Today we are full to the brim. Today joy cannot be contained.**

This day is not like any other day. **Today the stone was rolled away. Today the women saw the empty grave. Today we know—death does not win.**

This day is not like any other day. **Alleluia! Amen.**

Call to Confession

Family of faith, it is our tradition to have a prayer of confession each week—not to harp on ourselves or to drum up guilt, but because we believe God is not done with us yet. So please join me in the prayer of confession, because God is always listening and God's grace is always full to the brim.

Prayer of Confession

God of new life, **we are a mixed bag. We want to be full to the brim with hope and joy, but often we overflow with comparison and doubt. We want to embody the resurrection, but often we'd rather stay the same than to begin again. We want to have the courage to be like the women on that Easter morning—to run and speak truth, but often we are weary of courage and uncertain of our own voices. Forgive us for all the ways we remain unchanged. Break into our hearts. Overflow here. With hope we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, if there is life after death, then you can be certain—there is life after mess. There is life after mistakes. There is life after doubt. There is new life freely given, and that life is for you. You are forgiven, loved, and claimed. May we live full to the brim in response.

Thanks be to God, and let it be so. Alleluia! Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (Verse 1)

ELW #365

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, **we so often long for more. We want more than the hamster wheel life of to-do lists and errands, meal prep and alarm clocks. We want more than comparison and competition. We want more than certainty that drowns out curiosity. We want more than fear that leads to violence. We want a life that is teeming with alleluias. We want a life overcrowded with hope. We want a life congested with good news. We want a life jam-packed with forgiveness. We want a life bursting with laughter. We want a life so full that the stone just has to be rolled away. So today we pray—break the dam. Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Clear space in our minds to hear you clearly. Speak to us as only you can. It's what we long for. We long for you. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Word

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "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."

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (Verse 2&3)

ELW #365

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who can astound us—a **God who created the mountains of Colorado, the stars on a summer night, and the green of Ireland.**

We believe in Jesus, whose example changes us—an **example of love for those on the fringes, healing for the sick, and welcome for the lonely.**

We believe that Jesus was abandoned by his friends, wounded, mocked, and killed by the state. **And in a garden, three days later, we believe that life began again—the stone was rolled back, as death lost its sting.**

Ever since that day, we believe the Spirit has been inviting us into an expansive life—a **life not measured by wealth or accolades, but a life full to the brim with joy, overflowing with laughter, saturated in hope, and decorated with good news.**

Death has lost its sting. **We believe, and are set free. Thanks be to God, amen.**

Prayers of Intercession Sing Response "Hope of All Creation"

Offering

Offering Song

Give Thanks

Gray #170

Offering Prayer

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of the garden, God of new life, God of the here and now, where do we begin? Our hearts are full to the brim with gratitude, hope, fear, doubt, dreams, and belief. As a result, our prayers can often feel chaotic at best, bouncing around to each name and need that comes to mind.

Settle us. Excavate us. Summon out what we shall be. Lift our prayers from the rubble of our distracted minds and hold us close.

God, there are some things we would like to let go of, things we'd like to bury, things that we do not want to bring with us into this new day.

In particular, we'd like to let go of our stress and fatigue. We'd like to let go of our own self-criticism and low self-esteem. We'd like to let go of the fear to put ourselves out there, and the worry that we might not have enough or be enough.

These things are always easier said than done, God, which is why we need you. At the same time, there are things we'd like to hold close—things that draw us closer to that expansive life you dream for us, things we are running toward.

In particular, we want to move closer to balance and to meaningful friendships, to health of mind, body, and spirit, to justice that sets our hearts on fire, and to your Word—lived out in our daily lives. Help us. Guide the way. Meet us in the garden. Roll back the stones that stop us. Give us the energy to run toward you. Gather us up into your expansive love.

Until the promised day when swords are beaten into plowshares, and the prayers of the people are only prayers of joy, we ask that you pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of you here at this Table. Gather us up into your expansive love.

***Words of Institution**

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***Lord's Prayer**

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Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sending

Benediction

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself— go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (Verse 4)

ELW #365

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Postlude

Please RETURN the Bulletins to the Ushers after 7AM Service, to use for 9:30AM Service.
Thank you!!

Bulletin Donated: Happy EASTER!!

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)

To share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.

Matthew 22:39 ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord’s real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ’s name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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