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# Saint James Lutheran Church

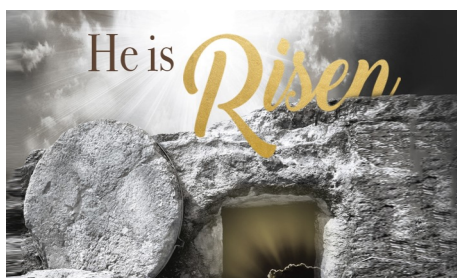


A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

APRIL 12, 2020



## EASTER DAY

Today the Church completes its three great days of celebrating redemption. Since Maundy Thursday, we have been involved in an extended liturgy that will be brought to its conclusion today. This is the celebration of the Passover of Christ from death to life. It is also the celebration of our own Passover in Holy Baptism in which "we were buried with Christ in his death and raised with him." As we rejoice in our new life in the risen Christ on this day, he comes among us and is known to us in the Holy Scriptures, and we are sent forth to tell others of his resurrection.

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

O Filii: Variations

Jeanne Demessieux (1921 - 1968)

### EASTER PROCLAMATION

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, we gather on this holy morning to mark anew our Lord's passing from death into life. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled God's will and made us God's holy people. It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, destroyed death and broke the bonds of the evil one forever. It is he who, stretching out his hands in suffering on a cross, freed forever those who believe on him. It is he who, laid in a borrowed tomb, shrouded in death, was raised by God, victorious over sin, death and the grave. It is he who, passing through death into life, has led us through the mystic grave of baptism into life eternal and the joy of heaven. Beloved in Christ, this is the Passover of the Lord. We honor the mighty acts of God in Christ Jesus: his glorious Passion, death and resurrection. We gather to his Word and celebrate his saving mysteries. God's promise is sure! We who have died to sin and have been raised out of the waters of Holy Baptism also share in Christ's victory over death and the grave. We will live with him forever. Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to 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.**

**FIRST READING *Acts 10:34-43***

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

A reading from Acts, the tenth chapter.

**P**eter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>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***

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

A reading from Colossians, the third chapter.

**I**f you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>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.**

**HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 28:1-10***

*Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**A**fter the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>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

### NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess 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, 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 THE PEOPLE

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

It is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our fears, and wrath, and sorrow, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you give us grace that helps in time of need. Surround healthcare professionals, first responders, cashiers, truckers, and all who are serving to care for others in this time of crisis, with your steadfast love and lighten their burdens. By the power of your Spirit, protect them, free them from distress, and give them a new mind and a heart made whole in the name of the risen Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you are the source of life and hope and healing, and you alone can bring calmness. Grant to your children, an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, our weariness, and our anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us by your loving might, and permit us to enjoy health and strength so that we may care for others. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died. Comfort their loved ones in their despair, and inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, proclaim the resurrection!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

EARTH AND ALL STARS: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

Keith Kolander (b. 1955)

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

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## PRAYER LIST

(additions to full listing of names in monthly newsletter)

All health care professionals and first responders including:

**Dr Bradley Propst**, son of  
Kenny and Annette Propst  
**Sam Hurley**, son of Elizabeth  
Hurley

**Lisa Snyder**, friend of Debbie  
Wilkinson

**Julie Greathouse**, friend of  
Lois Marlow

**Betsy Waselovich**, sister of  
Golda Jay

**Lauren**, daughter of Angie  
Buchanan

**Stephenie and Matthews**

**Deb Bradshaw**

**DeeDee Gilbert**

**Charlie Shifley and Family**,  
Barbara Shifley, sister-in-law of  
Annette Propst died on Saturday

If you have a name of someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

## FLOWERS

The flowers are given by Mary Elizabeth Stewart to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother, Betty Lou Brown Stewart, and her aunt, Phyllis Tucker Brown, and in honor of her aunt, Jane Biggers Brown.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- 13-Apr David Hardister
- 13-Apr Amanda Irvin
- 13-Apr Chip Popovici
- 14-Apr Joan Mahoney
- 14-Apr Mary Catherine Nivens
- 14-Apr Michelle Urso
- 15-Apr Hayden Weisel
- 17-Apr Bill Fisher
- 17-Apr Laura Patterson
- 17-Apr Kristen Ziegler
- 18-Apr Missy Hartman

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The need for your giving and support continues, even though we have had to cancel gathering and corporate worship services. You can mail your contributions or contribute online. Thank you for your continued support.

## CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

You may make contributions online by visiting our website at [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net). You may contribute to the General Fund or to a designated fund. Look for the link "On-Line Giving" on the St. James home page.

## OFFICE PHONE

If you call the church office, please leave a message. Staff will be checking their messages on a regular basis.

Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups—send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [jeremy@pbnjay.com](mailto:jeremy@pbnjay.com)

St. James YouTube Channel Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

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"EARTH AND ALL STARS: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" from Augsburg Organ Library: Easter, arr. by Keith Kolander. Copyright © 2000 by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



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OFFICE HOURS  
M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00  
Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00

## DIRECTORY

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The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

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