Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12, 2020
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Deerfield Beach, Florida

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34). God’s doors are open to all. Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise and gather around sacred words. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We live in joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

We Gather

PRELUDE
“O Church, Arise” (Cantor Kurt R. Schmidt, solo)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Do not be afraid: Jesus is risen!
This is the day the Lord has made,
when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell
and rose victorious from the grave.
How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God,
is your mercy and loving-kindness to us,
that to redeem a slave,
you gave a Son.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN
“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

OPENING LITANY
We are the people of Zion!
A city on a hill, a light that cannot be hid!
Following Jesus
Everyone is welcome here!
Following Jesus
We equip each other for ministry!
Following Jesus
We are sent to serve our neighbor!
This is the day the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
HYMN OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!
Let us pray...

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.
YOUTH MESSAGE

FIRST READING: ACTS 10:34-43
A reading from Acts:

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.”

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.
2 Let Israel now declare, “God’s mercy endures forever.”
14 The Lord 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 Lord acts valiantly!
   The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
   The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”
17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
18 The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.
19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.
20 “This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”
21 I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.
22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
23 By the Lord has this been done; 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: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4
A reading from Colossians:

1 If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and
your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 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!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**
*(sung)*
Christ is arisen from the grave’s dark prison.
So let our joy rise full and free;
Our comfort true will be: Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:1-10**
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**
“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done”

1 The strife is o’er, the battle done; now is the victor's tri-umph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Al-le-lu-ia! 2 The pow’rs of death have done their worst; Je-sus their le-gions has dis-persed. Let shouts of holy joy out-burst. Al-le-lu-ia! 3 The three sad days have quick-ly sped, Christ ris-es glo-ri-ous from the dead. All glo-ry to our ris-en head! Al-le-lu-ia! 4 Christ closed the yawn-ing gates of hell; the bars from heav’n’s high por-tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri-umph tell. Al-le-lu-ia! ser-vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al-le-lu-ia!

After the final stanza

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
NICENE CREED
Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the 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
Following Each Petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.

PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING
This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

OFFERING MUSIC
“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”
(Debbie Burns, solo)
We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING
May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN
“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life’s first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand

DISMISSAL
The worship has ended. Let the service begin.
Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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