

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your Mercy C) Hear our Prayer

SHARING THE PEACE L) The peace of Christ be with you all C) And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

"Come to the Table"

ELW #481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION (Continuous)

✠ Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

✠ Distribution Hymns: "Let Us Break Bread Together" ELW #471

"Beautiful Savior" ELW #838

✠ Blessing & Benediction

SENDING HYMN

"Now All the Vaults of Heaven Resounds"

ELW #367

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life

and by his presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day

that by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord,

to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE DISMISSAL L) Go in peace. Share the Good News. C) **Thanks be to God!**

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Second Sunday of Easter – April 7th, 2024

Guest Pastors: *Kent Stillson & Renee Splichal Larson* Organist: *Kari Vosburg*

PRELUDE

EASTER GREETING: L) Christ is Risen! C) **He is risen, indeed!**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

"Christ is Alive!"

ELW #389

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.

In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 133

L) How very good and pleasant it is

C) when kindred live together in unity!

L) It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,

C) on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

L) It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

C) For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

L) Word of God, Word of Life.

C) Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 John 1:1--2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L) *Word of God, Word of Life. All) Thanks be to God.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lamb of God" - Kari Vosburg

GOSPEL John 20: 19 – 31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.
L) *Word of God, Word of Life All) Thanks be to God.*

SERMON – Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, SD Synod, ELCA

HYMN OF THE DAY *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* ELW #619 v1-4

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

INSTALLATION OF INTERIM PASTOR