



Easter

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Sunday, April 4, 2021



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

CELEBRATION OF EASTER

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

RINGING IN THE ALLELUIA

Celtic Alleluia
Fintan O'Carroll, Christopher Walker

Memorial Bells

CALL TO WORSHIP

Was It a Morning Like This? — Jim Croegaert

Cantor

Was it a morning like this when the Sun still hid from Jerusalem,
And Mary rose from her bed to tend the Lord she thought was dead?

Was it a morning like this when Mary walked down from Jerusalem,
And two angels stood at the tomb, bearers of news she would hear soon?

Did the grass sing, did the earth rejoice to feel you again?

Over and over like a trumpet underground,
Did the earth seem to pound, "He is risen."
Over and over in a never-ending round,
"He is risen, hallelujah, hallelujah!"

Was it a morning like this when Peter and John ran from Jerusalem,
And as they raced towards the tomb, beneath their feet was there a tune?

Was it a morning like this when my Lord looked out on Jerusalem?

EASTER PROCLAMATION AND WELCOME

PM: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Congregation

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent.; Music: J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
 Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
 Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. O God,

C: 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

MUSICAL OFFERING*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*—arr. Sandra Eithun

Memorial Bells

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.**FIRST READING**

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.****SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now 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, ²through 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.

³For 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, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to God

Cantor



THE GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

¹When 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. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But 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. ⁷But 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." ⁸So 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.

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Something Green in Black Places

Pastor Jim Kruse

We were all sitting around relaxing on a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon, late in the summer of 1996, almost 25 years ago now, when someone suggested we should all go for a long three-hour hike. I had been living at The Grünwald Guild at the time, a small art and faith community in the Cascade Mountains just north of Leavenworth, Washington, for more than a year. There were about a dozen of us of all ages, men and women, boys and

girls. Morgan, the youngest, was a 9-year-old girl. And the eldest was Morgan's grandmother, Liz.

It took us 45 minutes for to drive to the trailhead parking lot where we all piled out of the cars, put on our boots and day packs, and headed out. The first hour or so was a vigorous climb. The Douglas Firs and Ponderosa Pines were so thick you could only see out in any one direction a few feet. But then, suddenly, the trail leveled off, and we turned a corner, and we saw nothing but black ahead of us. Liz told us all that "This was land had been part of the large wildfire of 1994," Liz told us. Referring to a well-publicized forest fire that swept through the Northern Cascades in July and August, two years earlier.

Our overall pace slowed to a crawl as we entered the area. The only trees still standing had been the largest of the original inhabitants. Now stripped of any limbs or needles, they were just huge black logs that seemed as though they had been jabbed into the ground from above, like toothpicks into a giant sandwich. And there were twice as many of these black logs lying on the forest floor as there were left upright. The fire had burned these ancient trees clear through to the roots, and they were no longer strong enough to stand on their own.

Without the benefit of a canopy of branches, we could now see for many miles. And every inch of it was colored black. Every twig, every tree, every stone, every patch of ground was charred. The break from the thick forest to desolate wasteland was so abrupt it was as though God had taken a pencil and drawn a line and said, "OK, those of you on this side of the line, you get to continue to grow, and thrive, and reach for the sky, and know the joy of just being alive. And those of you on that side of the line, you are going to be consumed by a fireball the likes of which you cannot possible imagine."

We hiked straight into this eerie, mystical place for 15, maybe 20, minutes. At first, our conversation was lively, marveling at such an unusual creation, and the awesome power that could have created it. But as we walked in deeper, our voices slowly fell silent. Even the children were overcome by the sacred nature of this place. Finally each of us, individually, found a place to sit, and to stare, and to wonder, "How could anything be so utterly, utterly destructive?"

If you can imagine the experience I am describing to you; if I have been successful at bringing this place to life in your mind; then you may have a little better understanding of what it might have been like for Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome, to walk out to the cemetery early on a Sunday morning.

It was supposed to have been a quiet visit. They would have gone on Saturday, the day before, except that tradition did not allow this kind of work on the Sabbath. So they had waited the required 24 long hours until first light on Sunday morning. They were expecting to have to find a couple strong men along the way who could roll back the heavy stone door for them, so that Jesus' crucified body could be properly embalmed. They thought that the walk, and the work, would help them figure out how anything could be so utterly, utterly destructive.

But it did not work out that way, did it? Something happened in the middle of the night that alarmed them. The stone that sealed up the tomb had already been pushed back. And when they peeked inside, they encountered a strange young man who was just sitting there waiting. Waiting to tell anyone who wandered by what had happened. "Come over here!" he said, "and take a look! See, this is the place where he was laid out. But now there is nothing there. He is gone."

And then, even before they could ask the young man what in the world was going on, he added, "Now go! Get out of here! Go tell his friends that Jesus is alive and if they want to see him again they need to go back home to Galilee and wait there. He will be by." And then, Mark looks deep into the souls of the Mary's for us, and tells us that, at the same time, they are both terrified and amazed at what they walked into.

There is no shortage of desolate places in our lives and in our world. There is no shortage of blackened forests. The frustration and chaos and pleas for racial equality and justice that filled the streets of many of our cities last summer has today spilled over into the courts as an emotion trial is being televised across the country. Where is the grace in that? For more than a year now a deadly pandemic has infiltrated the lives and lungs of millions of people all across the globe, killing more of them than we can fathom, while wilily mutating its core makeup so as to elude the hastily produced vaccines. Where is the grace in that? While the country is opening up. We are getting back to our lives. And passionate and deluded people, who have been living their lives cowering in the dark corners of the world, now take their guns into public places for no better purpose than to kill for the sake of killing. Where is the grace in that?

Family and friends alike take up violence to settle their differences. Illness and sadness force pain into the lives of simple, faithful people. And death breaks our hearts. Where is the grace in that?

Without warning or direction, we wander into the ravaged acreage of a previously lush and vital life. And every inch of it is charcoal black. We are both terrified and amazed as we sit on our stumps struggling to find a quiet respite.

But then suddenly, and also without warning, everything is changed. Everything is different. A new day breaks. A new dawn offers us its precious new gifts. New life springs up from this dark place.

And even before we can say to ourselves, "What in the world is going on here!" another voice, a calmer, gentler, voice takes over our inner conversation. "Just take a look. Go on, what can it hurt." And we go. And we peek in ever so gently at our new day. And we see. And it is enough. It is enough for today. It is enough for now.

And we go back home. And we go back to work. And we remember that the grave that we came to attend to was empty. And that our expectation for a quiet solitude was pointless.

We had not noticed, most of us, while we were sitting there in our silence, that Morgan had grown tired of just staring at the charred earth. And so she had wandered off. But then suddenly she came running back to us, full of life and excitement. "Come and see, Nana Mut, Come and see!" That's what she called her grandmother: "Nana Mut." Morgan had seen something behind a blackened log that was blocked from view from the trail. "Come and see what I found." And we all went. And we all saw.

And there behind a fallen log was something of a color other than black. It looked bright, almost neon green, against the charcoal backdrop. A frail, tender blade of green, exactly 7/8th of an inch in height, and no wider than a 16-penny nail. It wasn't much in terms of the whole range of vegetation that covers God's creation. But it was there. Standing straight and tall. As proud as can be that it had pushed its way past the death that covered it

up. And it was alive! The beginning of a new forest. The beginning of a new life. The beginning of a new day.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! What do you think of that?

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; Music: Tanzanian traditional

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.
For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo, and it its conquest his might did show.

Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

The angel said to them, "Do not fear. You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare. Only the grave clothes are lying there."

Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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 THE PEOPLE

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

[A brief silence.]

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve especially John Kip, Noreen, Rachel, Alice, Leslie, Evy and her family, the Smith & Taylor families, James, Joan and Stephanie, Betty, Brandi, Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal and the Zazueta families, Roger, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie. Assure them of your promises. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. We are grateful that vaccines that reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic are reaching more and more people, and we pray for the continued success of this medical miracle. At the same time, we pray that you give peace to the families of those who have lost loved ones. Strengthen and encourage those who are sick and those who work to alleviate the suffering. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: “your mercy endures forever!” Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PM: Lord, remember us in your love as you teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN tion

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Congrega-

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st.4; Music: J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

BLESSING

PM: Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness. Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses. God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

C: Amen

POSTLUDE

Prelude on "The Strife is O'er" — Gordon Young

Jiyoung Lee

Serving in Worship:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Leader: | Pastor Jim Kruse |
| Assisting Minister: | Connie Fletcher |
| Cantors: | Emily Waltzer, Lori Downey, Scott Hafso |
| Memorial Bells Director: | Alice Lewis |
| Organists: | Jiyoung Lee, Karla Stalwick |
| Pianist/Percussionist: | Scott Hafso |
| Videographer: | Leslie Waltzer |
| Banner: | Elaine Stamm |
| Bulletin Cover: | Craig Gillin |

Readings for next week: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31

Acknowledgements: Liturgy reprinted from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright © 2019, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under **Media 1517 License #32992**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Reprinted by permission under **OneLicense.net License #A-706795**: *Canticle of Praise (Glory to God)*, *Gospel Acclamation (Celtic Alleluia)*, *Sanctus*, and *Lamb of God*.

Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslciissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

John Wray strength and healing (Shelley & Mark Howe)

Kip Hauser diagnosed with throat cancer. (father of Cheryl Hauser)

Noreen adoptive mother of a 3 week old baby, in the hospital with COVID. (Connie Fletcher)

Rachel 21 yrs old, in need of a kidney transplant. (Marilyn Carlson)

Alice F healing and wholeness. (Marilyn Carlson)

Leslie Lapp hit by a car and recovering from injuries, wife to a pastor in California. (Mary Ann Hult)

Evy Sneva and her family as they grieve the loss of her son.

The Smith and Taylor families, James Murphy recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

Joan Perry admitted to the hospital for COVID 19, and her daughter, **Stephanie**. (Cheryl Neeb)

Betty Anderson-healing of intestinal issues. (mother of Shelley Howe)

Brandi Kowal-peace and strength after a miscarriage. (niece of Shelley Howe)

Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the The Kowal & Zazueta families recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist; Marian James; Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebec-**

ca Thomas; Tanisha Foote (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: Roger Stanley (Alice Lewis); **Tim Rutten** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Carol Howe** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Tom Killoran** (Shelley Howe); **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Expectant Mothers: Karen (daughter of Bob & Patty Gerde); **Marian Martin** (Stacy Smith); **Alyssa Saavedra** (Cheryl Neeb); **Shawna McIntyre** (Cheryl Neeb)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Joyce Konigsmark** (mother to Ken Konigsmark); **JD Golick** (nephew to Patty Gerde); **Dave McMurray** (father of Shannon Dickens); **Del Elliott** (Kate Gagnon)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, and for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.