

# Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day

4-4-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Vicar Karen Pugatch

## **Celebrate (Introduction)**

“Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ’s death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God’s unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Opening Hymn:** [“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”](#)

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

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures for ever.”

“<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Hark, glad songs of victory  
in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord is exalted,  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord has chastened me sorely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank thee that thou hast answered me  
and hast become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the head of the corner.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord’s doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>This is the day which the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

**Hymn of Praise:** [“Thine Is the Glory”](#)

**Prayer of the Day**

“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.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** [Acts 10:34-43](#)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

**The Gospel:** [Mark 16:1-8](#)

**Hymn of the Day:** [“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”](#)

**The Message:** [\(Video Link\)](#)

Today we are blessed to be able to celebrate Easter. Fortunately the weather today as forecasted is a beautiful early April day. This has allowed us to at long last brave the chill in the air and personally gather together to celebrate this Easter Sunday, Christ’s Resurrection. This is especially welcomed after going through this past history making year during which we have been isolated from each other and months without being able to worship together. After living a year of uncertainty we give thanks to see spring arrive bringing forth the beauty and splendor of new life. God’s creation breaks the bonds of uncertainty bringing a sense of stability to what has become a very unpredictable and tumultuous life. What we have lived through definitely gives credence to the statement that life is unpredictable.

There maybe those things which are very predictable in life, like the change in the seasons, but much of life defy predictability. They escape even the most sound scientific logic and become a part of the real world. Can we predict an earthquake or be certain when and where a tornado strikes? Can we with certainty predict the outcome of an athletic event when we know that even in the most lopsided mismatches, upsets do occur? The March Madness basketball tournament attest to that. What about everyday life? We go through our days on earth experiencing one unpredictable event after another placing roadblocks to and detours around our best made plans. Can we really be certain what is going to happen even in the next minute? The weather, although somewhat predictable can change in an instant. Who would have thought or predict that we would live through an extensive pandemic limiting our life as it has done this past year and continues to do. If we could predict there would not be those

accidental events which are experienced. Beyond the pandemic sickness and disease can be predicted to some extent but often comes unforeseen in defiance of any preventive measure which we may taken. Even the length of our days here on this earth cannot be determined for we do not know the moment which death may take hold of us.

The reality is that the unpredictable nature of life need not always involve the negatives of life. There are those unpredictable events which can be very positive and come to us as utter surprises. What about love? Love often takes hold of us out of the blue and can bring together two of the most unlikely personalities into a life-long relationship. Unpredictable surprises occur like suddenly, out of the blue, hearing from someone from our past. Even with disease and illness the unpredictable happens. We hear about healings which defy the most advanced prognosis of medicine and try to analyze why. But they happen without any kind of logical explanation. We have seen this and stood in shock and disbelief but we know that it happened. I have seen people overcome negatives in their lives which predictably and logically they should never have overcome. The reality is that life has its unpredictable twists and turns.

Two thousand years ago this was exactly the case. Those who had become acquainted with an itinerate preacher, a carpenter from Nazareth, would eventually become involved in a life of total unpredictability. This Jesus of Nazareth was not like any other person they had met. He was not the average magician or miracle worker of the day for his miracles were instant realities and out of the realm of the normal. He even did the most unpredictable act, He restored life to those who had died. His teachings were beyond the accepted and expected Jewish law of the authorities and gave hope through a God of love and forgiveness and not a God of retribution and damnation. This Jesus was totally unpredictable for his demonstration of love and forgiveness went well beyond the human norm. He talked with a despised Samaritan, a woman who lived an adulterous life and even forgave her. He healed the sick even on the Sabbath when that was forbidden since it was considered to be an act of work. He admonished those whose wealth had become their god. He even touched the unclean lepers in order to heal them. He uplifted the poor, downtrodden and alienated. His life was unpredictable but yet became very predictable until those last days. His followers never expected what happened in Jerusalem.

After all, to many He was a prophet of God who spoke about the coming of the Kingdom of God for all those who would follow him. His works and his words led many to believe that indeed this carpenter was in actuality the long awaited Messiah to bring about the new kingdom of Israel. Therefore, the signs in His life pointed to what seemed to be a very predictable outcome. He would actually fulfill His God given power of leading Israel into its rightful glory among the nations. They believed this so much that many were willing to forgo their normal lives in order to follow him and become a part of the leadership of this new kingdom.

But Jesus would prove to be just as unpredictable as life itself. He was not their preconceived long awaited Messiah. Instead of a coronation and a jeweled crown he would be tried, convicted and crucified with a crown of thorns between two common criminals. This was

not within His followers' mindsets. With the crucifixion, what they thought to be their predictable world came crashing down. All their hopes and dreams dashed. They had been so caught up in their misconceptions that they now thought that they were the victims of the most unpredictable prank ever. Precious time and dreams had been wasted and life somehow had to get back to reality. At the time they didn't and in reality couldn't predict the outcome of the tragedy they were experiencing. In many ways we have been and are in a similar situation. We never predicted that we would be in the midst of a worldwide deadly pandemic and certainly not to have lived the nightmare for over a year. We only know that many have experienced death, suffering, and hardship while with others valuable time wasted

But the story does not end with a negative for the most unpredictable event possible, the cross, would suddenly change everything. Who could ever have predicted what was to occur. It was beyond all logic and the wildest of imaginations. The women, Peter, and John, during those early morning hours two thousand years ago, would discover an empty tomb. This Jesus of Nazareth after being entombed for three days would suddenly rise from death into a new life. He would appear during those early morning hours first to Mary Magdalene and then later to His disciples. Who would ever have predicted that? The unpredictable became the greatest single event in history for it has change the lives of people ever since. This unpredictable event has given predictability to life, a predictability which gives us the example of love and hope. The unpredictability of "He is Risen, He Lives" give us the not only the way to live life in the here and now but the hope, and yes the promise, of an eternal life in God's love. This is why the most unpredictable event gives us a new lease on life and new hope as we become vaccinated for the deadly Covid virus. There is new life for us now and forever. This is why we are especially joyous in our celebration today and in the days and years to come. The unpredictable event of the empty tomb brings us the good news of God's love for "He is Risen! He Lives" so that we too can live. Amen.

**Anthem:** ["Hallelujah Chorus" - The Royal Choral Society](#)

**Offering\*:** ([On-Line Giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

### **The Prayer**

Father of all creation, today as we live another new day we celebrate the hope that life will return without fear and anxiety. Strengthen our resolve to overcome the pandemic which has stricken so many and has changed our lives. May the love you have shown us with the resurrection of Christ enter the hearts of all those who are filled with hate, bitterness, and revenge. Bring comfort and healing to our brothers and sisters suffering from the pandemic. But let us also be thankful for the life-saving vaccine and those who developed it as well as all those who are giving of themselves to bring comfort and healing.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Della Mae Strobel, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Vicki and Christian Zanartu, Pastor Jack, We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you;  
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters  
Live on knowing God's love,  
The joy of living this life of love,  
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.  
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

#### **Closing Hymn: ["Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"](#)**

Hopefully, soon we will resume in person services – stay tuned. The online worship experiences will continue as well as the Midweek Thoughts.

\*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithely.com/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)