

He Lives!

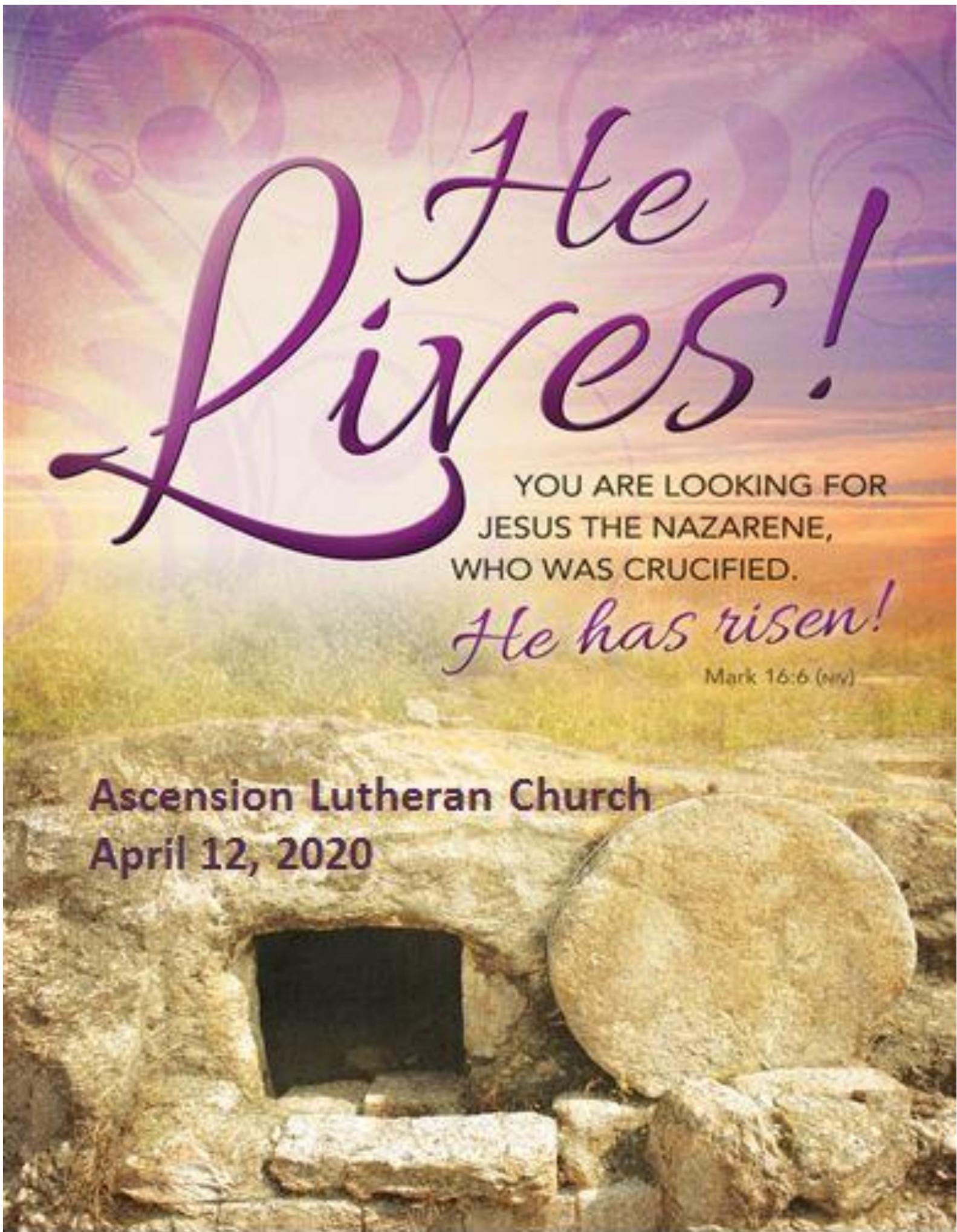
YOU ARE LOOKING FOR
JESUS THE NAZARENE,
WHO WAS CRUCIFIED.

He has risen!

Mark 16:6 (NIV)

Ascension Lutheran Church

April 12, 2020



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

Online Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

That first Easter morning started with a shake, rattle and roll! An earthquake and lightning announced the Lord's messenger angel. That angel proclaimed what he knew to be true: the tomb was empty because Christ had risen! Both the guards and women were initially overcome with fear but the contrast between the two is amazing. Whereas the guards were simply scared out of their wits, the women were energized by their fear. That fear pulled them out of their preoccupation with themselves and their sadness and into the very action of God. They were rightly filled with a fear of the Lord but also filled with wonder and awe -- the Good News! -- that they simply could not wait to share with the disciples. The news the angel proclaimed remains too good to keep to ourselves. As God's messengers today, it is our turn to tell the world that He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

Mike Fiffik, Elder

OPENING HYMN:

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

LW 127

**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!**

**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!**

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INVOCATION

Elder: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Elder: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Elder: We confess that we are often preoccupied with ourselves, our feelings and our circumstances so much so that we crowd you and the wonder of your resurrection out of our daily lives.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Elder: We confess that we have allowed our lives to become cluttered with idols -- worry, anxiety, fear, money, advancement, work and carnal desires -- and that these idols often crowd you out. We confess that we have not pursued a relationship with you with the same vigor and effort that we have exerted in pursuit of these idols.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Elder: We confess that we have not shared Your love with others in every situation, that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**

Elder: We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends and beyond.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**

Elder: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**

Elder: "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides [the Lord], who acts for those who wait for Him" (Isaiah 64:4). In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

Elder: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

EASTER GREETINGS – Video

GATHERING SONG: “The Cross of Christ”

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34–43 (*The disciples are witnesses to the risen Lord.*)

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:1–4 (*Our lives are hidden with Christ in God.*)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1–10 (*Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.*)

Congregation reads together:

^{28:1} **Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and 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, and there they will see me.”**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Cristen Fiffik

HYMN OF THE DAY: “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” LW 264, vs. 1, 2, 4, & 8

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

**He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

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SERMON: “Locked Behind Closed Doors”

Pastor Barry Keurulainen

OFFERTORY MEDITATION SONG: “Christ Is Risen”

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Elder: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

That the Church would live out its calling and that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be joyfully celebrated in all places, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: That you would use this COVID pandemic to bring the nations of the world together, to work in union to defeat this unseen enemy and in so doing that consequence would be that these countries would live in peace with justice in our time, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: That Your abiding blessing would rest upon our families, our neighborhoods, our co-workers, places of business, and our schools, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: That those whose confession of the true faith leads to bodily peril or other sufferings know relief and deliverance from every danger, let us pray of the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: That all whose labor in defense of the coronavirus -- doctors, nurses, aides, healthcare workers, police, paramedics, firemen and all those who work daily in essential businesses so that we can continue to survive and be safe — would be strengthened in their labors, that you would take away any fear and anxiety they may have as they continue working and that you keep them safe from infection, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: That all those who are ill and those who mourn, especially the families of Carolyn Fagan, Geraldine Nicolette, Abbey Todd, and those we name in our hearts, know heavenly benediction and strength for each day, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: That those who are suffering from loneliness, isolation, depression, anxiety as a result of this COVID pandemic might be relieved of their burdens, that you would draw them closer to you and encourage them to place their burdens at the base of your Holy Cross, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Elder: These things and all else that we should have asked on this day of holy rejoicing, grant to us, Lord, for the sake of our risen Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace.

CLOSING SONG: "Low In The Grave He Lay (He Arose)"

Elder: Go in peace and

People: serve the Lord.

LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings of the Church Calendar for next week are Acts 5:29-42, 1 Peter 1:3-9, and John 20:19-31.