**easter sunday- april 9, 2023- zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP\***

Friends, the tomb is empty!   The stone has been rolled away!  
**Christ is risen!  He is risen, indeed!**  
For three days he lay in that cold and lonely cave.  
**But God’s love cannot be contained by anything,** **not even death!**  
Thanks be to God, who gives us victory throughout our Risen Lord.  
**Death has been swallowed up in victory!**   
Where, O death, is your victory?  
**Where, O death, is your sting?**  
Christ is risen!  
**He is risen, indeed!**  
Come, let us worship the Risen Christ!

**GATHERING SONG*Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* (ELW 382)**

1 Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Risen our victorious head!  
Sing his praises! Alleluia!  
Christ is risen from the dead!  
Gratefully our hearts adore him  
as his light once more appears;  
bowing down in joy before him,  
rising up from griefs and tears.  
  
Refrain  
Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Risen our victorious head!  
Sing his praises! Alleluia!  
Christ is risen from the dead!  
  
2 Christ is risen! All the sadness  
of our Lenten fast is o'er;  
through the open gates of gladness  
he returns to life once more;  
death and hell before him bending  
see him rise, the victor now,  
angels on his steps attending,  
glory round his wounded brow. Refrain  
  
3 Christ is risen! All the sorrow  
that last evening round him lay  
now has found a glorious morrow  
in the rising of today.  
See the grave its firstfruits giving,  
springing up from holy ground;  
Christ was dead, but now is living;  
he was lost, but he is found. Refrain  
  
4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never  
death or hell shall us enthrall.  
We are Christ's, in him forever  
we have triumphed over all.  
All the doubting and dejection  
of our trembling hearts have ceased;  
hail the day of resurrection!  
Let us rise and keep the feast. Refrain

**ANNOUNCMENTS**

Welcome to worship as we celebrate this day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023. All are welcome at the table.

We remember in our prayers the family of Helen Erhat. Helen passed away peacefully last Sunday at Grand River Hospital surrounded by her family. A private funeral will take place later this month. Helen’s joy of life will be missed by all who knew her. Eternal rest grant unto Helen, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

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

**KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from Acts.

*Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.  
 2**Let Israel now declare,** **“God’s mercy endures forever.”**  
 14The 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!**  
 16The right hand of the Lordis exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”  
 17**I shall not die, but live,** **and declare the works of the Lord.**  
 18The 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.**  
 22The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
 23**By the Lord has this been done;** **it is marvelous in our eyes.**  
 24This 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.

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

1If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When 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 (ELW p. 142)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?** **You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And 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. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then 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.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then 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 (ELW p. 143)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (ELW 367)**

1 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!  
  
2 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!  
  
3 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!  
  
4 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!

With the whole let us join in the confession of our faith

**NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**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.**

\*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* and all theologians, preachers, and teachers who faithfully proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized *especially*  Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Marlene, Felix, Hilde, Randy, Elaine, Brian, Gary, the family of Helen Erhat, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause). and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly’s song. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, especially Helen, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Offering is collected- Trevor and Wendy play while communion is prepared.*

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

 Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory.** **Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)**

Holy, living, and loving God, On this day of resurrection, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG- LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 146)**

**COMMUNION HYMNS- #619, 474**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (ELW 385)**

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our king!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;  
death's mighty stone is rolled away;  
let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
  
3 Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
  
4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord,  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**DISMISSAL**

Christ is Risen. **He is Risen, indeed.**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

\*written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on Liturgy & Hymns by Stephen M.Fearing.  <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/>