



April 4, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

April 04, 2021
Easter Sunday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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!

HYMN . . . "Thine Is the Glory"

P: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed!

P: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed!

P: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed!

WELCOME

P: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed.

P: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed.

P: We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always. Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We enter a virtual gathering space once again.

All: We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person.

L: We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite the challenges that pervade our community and world.

All: We trust Christ's peace, a peace given freely, despite our doubts and fears.

L: We know the Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a hopeful wind of change.

All: We feel the presence of Christ, the one who died and rose again, and brings us eternal life.

L: We submit to God's leading in this time of transformation.

All: We experience the joy of Easter morning when we celebrate all God has in store for us.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P: When we are all despairing, when the world is full of grief, when we see no way ahead and hope has gone away:

All: Roll back the stone.

P: Although we fear change, although we are not ready, although we'd rather weep and run away:

All: Roll back the stone.

P: Because we're coming with the women, because we hope where hope is vain, because you call us from the grave and show the way:

All: Roll back the stone.

BLESSING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

P: Children of Our Living Redeemer, on this most holy morning when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection; share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

All: Amen. Alleluia!

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world.

All: In flame us with a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through Jesus Christ, the Son of righteousness. Amen.

P: Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end. To Christ belongs time and eternity; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

All: Amen.

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

All: Amen. Alleluia.

INVOCATION

P: Loving God, as the day begins to brighten, shine your light into our lives. Chase the corners of sadness, expose our fears and bring us to the light of new hope, the dawn of possibility.

All: Open us to your resurrection power that knows no boundaries. Fill us with incredible joy, everlasting peace and unquenchable hope this day and always. In the name of Jesus, the Resurrected One. Amen.

EASTER LITANY . . . by Roddy Hamilton

L: When the day is quiet and the world still sleeps and the morning is crisp,

All: we praise you, O God of resurrection.

L: When the time is now and the moment is on us and the place is here and the grave clothes are folded,

All: we praise you, O God of renewal.

L: When the day is new and the sun is fresh and the light is clean and the stone has rolled,

All: we praise you, O God of empty tombs.

L: Now we see the world differently.

All: What we thought was the way of things yesterday is no longer the way of things today.

L: Death was yesterday,

All: new life is today.

L: Tombs were sealed,

All: now they are open.

L: Love was dead,

All: now is alive again.

L: Death has been given a make-over; endings have a new perspective;

All: things work differently now.

L: When the shouting has stopped and the suffering ended,

All: and the betrayal complete,

L: and the darkness stolen,

All: then we praise you, O God of life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation.

All: We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you.

L: Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew.

All: Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection.

L: May we, with shouts of joy,

All: proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.

HYMN . . . “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Reader: Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity.

All: Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit,

Reader: that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures,

All: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader: The Easter Gospel is from Mark, chapter sixteen, beginning with the first verse.

EASTER GOSPEL . . . Mark 16:1-8

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Reader: O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection

All: as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Carmen Blair*

AN EASTER MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: On this day of joy and light, during this celebration of hope and rebirth,

All: may we give from our abundance in order to extend Christ's love to a weary world.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of joyful surprises, with laughter in our hearts and songs on our lips,

All: may our lives reflect the glory of this day.

L: You offer abundance of life and fullness of grace

All: to all who turn to you and seek your blessing.

L: Receive our offerings in the name of your Son,

All: the source of our joy and strength, that they may be for the world your Easter light and life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: 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. 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. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: 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. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: 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. Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

All: Amen.

CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

L: We now celebrate the Eucharist:
Our Risen Redeemer is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Open up your hearts.

All: We open them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks and celebrate.

All: It is good to do so.

P: God, you created everything. You make it good and beautiful.

All: You make bread for our food and wine for us to celebrate.

P: You celebrate when you create and fill the earth with your splendor.

All: Fill our hearts with the same joy as we celebrate your resurrection.

P: Jesus Christ, our healer, you came into our broken world.

All: You were broken for us in order that we might be healed.

P: You rose from the grave to unleash new life in the world.

All: Fill our lives with the same life as we celebrate your resurrection.

P: We are bold to ask this of you because on the night you were betrayed, you sat with your disciples, took bread, said blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body given for you."

All: Feed us with your healing body now.

P: Then you took the cup, said a blessing, and gave it to your disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you. This is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Each time you do this, do it in remembrance of me."

All: Revive us with your life-giving blood.

P: Holy Spirit, you bring us together to sing and love and celebrate the Lord.

All: Fill our spirits with the same hope of a day when all things will be together.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Now with confidence as children of the Resurrected Redeemer let us pray:

All: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: We come to God's table, remembering that this is the Easter table of abundance for all.

All: We come, knowing that all are welcome and all things are made ready for us in Christ Jesus.

P: Now, as we are gathered from many places, let us share in this meal which unites us.

All: Amen

COMMUNION

SINGING BOWL

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

All: We have rested in the depth of your love;

P: We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

All: We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.

P: Together, at this table, you have offered us life.

All: Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks.

POST COMMUNION LITANY

L: Sing praises to God, you faithful.

All: Give thanks to God again.

L: Weeping may linger for a night.

All: But joy comes in the morning.

L: Bare is the cross of our Lord against the sky.

All: Empty, the tomb.

L: Who, but our God, has the last word?

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

L: Are you ready to tell the world what you have seen and heard?

All: Bless us, O God, that our lives may witness to our risen Lord Jesus.



BLESSING

P: When others dismiss your story as an idle tale, who will you be?

All: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.

P: When the world seems to be crumbling around you, remember who you are:

All: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.

P: When despair would seem to squelch all hope, believe in who you have become:

All: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.

P: When it is hard to persevere against all odds, trust in God who names you:

All: Resurrection people with Easter in our hearts.

DISMISSAL

L: We conclude with the Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Be in peace.

Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR POSTLUDE . . . “Hallelujah Chorus”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Debbie Huff

Reader: Tori Valcarcel

Children’s Time: Carmen Blair

Piano/Organ: Leilani Camara

Choir Director: Keith Hillesland

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema