

# Sermon Notes

**Sermon Series:** Certain Hope For Uncertain Times

**Sermon Theme:** Hope That God Keeps His Promises

**Sermon Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:19,20

## INTRODUCTION

- What is the worst thing you feel uncertain about? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why do we have certain hope that God will keep all of His promises?

## WE HAVE CERTAIN HOPE GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE OF A SAVIOR

- Because Jesus' resurrection proves we are \_\_\_\_\_ of all of our sins.
- Because Jesus' resurrection proves he will \_\_\_\_\_ all the dead to life.
- Because Jesus' resurrection proves he will take all believers to live with him forever in \_\_\_\_\_.

## WE HAVE CERTAIN HOPE GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES FOR OUR LIVES

- Because Jesus' resurrection proves God \_\_\_\_\_ to help us with our troubles and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because Jesus' resurrection proves God \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers.
- Because Jesus' resurrection proves God \_\_\_\_\_ us from our troubles.

## SINCE WE HAVE CERTAIN HOPE GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

- We \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is our resurrected Savior.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ him with our lives.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ in our faith through God's Word.

# Cross of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

585 E. Slifer St., Portage, WI 53901

[www.portagelutheranchurch.org](http://www.portagelutheranchurch.org)

Church: (608) 742-5609

Pastor Scott Schultz: (608) 617-8409

## Welcome

Here is some helpful information to guide your stay with us.

1. **Enjoy.** We feel blessed you came to Cross of Christ. Our worship service lasts about 60 minutes. Participate as much as you feel comfortable with.
2. **Restrooms.** We have one restroom in the back of church and a men's and women's restroom downstairs.
3. **Children.** Your children are welcome to worship with us regardless of their age. If you feel they are being too disruptive, we do have a **Parents Area** available downstairs with a television where you can watch the worship service.
4. **Offering.** You are welcome to give an offering, but you do not need to feel obligated to do so.
5. **Holy Communion.** Holy Communion will be offered at the end of the worship service. God's Word teaches in Holy Communion believers in Jesus not only receive bread and wine, but also Jesus' body and blood in a miraculous way for the forgiveness of their sins and the strengthening of their faith. If you are a guest, please talk to the pastor before you take Holy Communion. He would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## About Cross Of Christ

Cross of Christ is a Bible based church, which exists to give thanks to God for Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection by which God forgave all people of their sins and gives eternal life to all who believe in him. We do this by believing in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and sharing his Word with our community and the world.

## Sermon Series: Certain Hope For Uncertain Times

We live in uncertain times. There are many things we feel uncertain about in our lives. We certainly hope things will turn out alright for us, but we do not know for certain if they will. However, Jesus' resurrection on Easter gives us a certain hope that God will keep all of his promises to us so everything will be alright. It is a fact we are certain about. In the sermon series, "Certain Hope For Uncertain Times," we will learn about the following promises of God we can be certain of:

April 4 & 5: <b>Hope That God Keeps His Promises</b>	May 2 & 3: Hope That Life Has Meaning
April 11 & 12: Hope Of Peace	May 9 & 10: Hope For Everyday Living
April 18 & 19: Hope To Share With Others	May 13: Hope God Keeps His Word
April 25 & 26: Hope Of Protection	May 16 & 17: Hope Made More Certain

**LWMS Collection.** If you would like to donate money to support the home and world missions of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Beaver Dam Circuit or for the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary food pantry, please place your donation in your offering envelope and mark it "missions" or "food pantry".

**EHV Bibles.** We have 2 brand new copies of the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) Bible which members of the Wisconsin Synod produced in the church library in the fellowship hall. Make sure to check them out.

**Bulletins.** Please take your bulletin home with you after church and do not put it back because of COVID-19.

**Worship Services.** If you feel the Sunday worship services are too crowded, there is plenty of space available in the Monday worship services at 7:00 p.m.

**Stay Connected.** Finally, as we continue to live in these trying times, the Cross of Christ Church Council will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic to see when things can get back to normal at church or if any further changes are needed. For this reason, stay connected to Cross of Christ on the church website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to get important updates about worship services and other news and events. Regardless when things get back to normal, find comfort in your risen and ascended Savior Jesus who has forgiven your sins and who uses his almighty power to rule all things for the good of his people so we can one day join him in heaven. There we will all gather together and worship him.

**Free cassette tapes, VHS tapes and books.** On the white table in the Fellowship Hall are materials that were removed from the church library or donated. There are several sets of the Bible on cassettes, VHS tapes, and books. Many of the VHS tapes are children's Bible stories. Please feel free to take anything from this table.

## Triduum: *The Three Holy Days*

**Serving God Next Week.** April 4-10, 2021

Hymnsoft player: Wikliam Eckert (Monday)

Musicians: Eli Schultz (trumpet), Caleb Schultz (trombone) (Sunday)

Ushers: Dan Heckmann (C), Russ Stensrud, Tim Scharenbroch, Chase Spillner (Sunday 6am, 9am), Bob Miller (C) (Monday)

Altar Committee: Jeannine Heckmann & Johanna Veglahn (Sunday), Nona Lione & Tasha Buchholz (Monday)

Audio/visual technicians: Sandy Ryczek & Chloe Schultz (Sunday)

Offering Counters: Dave & Judy Kreklow (Sunday), Vacant (Monday)

**Serving God Next Week.** April 11-17, 2021

Hymnsoft player: Andrew Hochmuth (Monday)

Ushers: Scott McCluskey (C), William Beimborn, Todd Miller, Aaron Miller, Donovan Dumbleton (Sunday), Matthew Buchholz (C) (Monday)

Altar Committee: Jeannine Heckmann & Johanna Veglahn (Sunday), Nona Lione & Tasha Buchholz (Monday)

Audio/visual technicians: Sandy Ryczek & Samuel Veglahn (Sunday)

Offering Counters: Bonnie Dorniak & Jeannine Heckmann (Sunday), Vacant (Monday)

## Announcements

**Easter Worship Services.** There will be two Easter worship services on Sunday, April 4. The first is a Sunrise worship service at 6:00 a.m. The second is at 9:00 a.m. The sermon series theme for these services is "Certain Hope For Uncertain Times".

**Easter Sunday Activities.** The Easter breakfast has been cancelled this year. However, there will be an Easter egg hunt around the outside of the church building after the Easter worship service at 9:00 a.m. for all Sunday School age children to enjoy.

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting.** The Quarterly Voters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 25 at 10:15 a.m. Please plan on attending.

**Directory.** New 2021 Church Directory are available on the table in the back of church. Any member of Cross of Christ is welcome to take one.

**Cross of Christ Mission Statement Committee.** At the November 1 Quarterly Voters' meeting, it was decided to create a committee to develop a Mission Statement for the church. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, contact Pastor Schultz.

**Forward in Christ and Meditations.** You can pick up the new Meditations and the latest Forward in Christ in the back of church.

The enormous significance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection has always been the central focus of Christian worship. Prior to the fourth century, Easter day itself included all three emphases, but thereafter they were distributed over three days of special observance, which the early church father, Augustine, called, "the most holy *Triduum* of the crucified, buried, and risen Lord." These days have long been understood as the climax of the church's year.

In keeping with their origins, the *Triduum* worship services are designed to be a single service, which are closely connected with one another. They are designed this way to emphasize how the events that took place on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are all closely connected with one another and absolutely necessary for our salvation. Here at Cross of Christ we use the following worship services which show the connection between Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, but we have adapted them from their original design to suit this congregation's interests.

*Maundy Thursday (including Stripping of the Altar)*

Maundy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper. The service begins with an exhortation regarding the end of Lent and then continues with the service where we focus primarily on the Sacrament of Holy Communion. After Holy Communion there is no benediction. In its place the service closes with the stripping of the altar, which symbolizes Jesus' abandonment by his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, and prepares the chancel and the congregation for Good Friday worship.

*Good Friday: Service of the Cross of Christ (3:00 p.m. service)*

Good Friday is not a "funeral" for Jesus. Rather it is an austere celebration of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The Service of the Cross of Christ consists of two parts: (I) the Meditation on the Cross and (II) the Word. This service is more traditional and does include a benediction.

*Good Friday: Service of Darkness (Tenebrae) (7:00 p.m. service)*

This worship service was not part of the historical services of the *Triduum*. In this service there are a series of lessons about the crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus on Good Friday. After each lesson is read candles on a sevenfold candelabrum are extinguished one by one until only one remains. This candle is not extinguished but is removed from the chancel, leaving the church in darkness, thus reminding us of how we were once in the darkness of our sins. There is no benediction. In its place the service closes with a loud noise known as the *strepitus*, which symbolizes the opening of Jesus' tomb on Easter morning. After the *strepitus*, the last candle, still burning, is returned to the chancel, which symbolizes how Jesus, the light of the world, has risen from the dead.

*Easter Dawn: Easter Vigil (6:00 a.m. service): Page 4 in worship folder*

The climax of the *Triduum* is the Vigil of Easter. Typically this service is used on the Saturday before Easter, but it is at times used on Easter Dawn. The Vigil is composed of four parts: (I) Service of Light where we focus on the unconquered life of Christ; (II) Service of Lessons where we remember Jesus' resurrection from the dead; (III) Service of Baptism where we remember how we are connected to Christ's resurrection through baptism; and (IV) Service of Holy Communion which begins with the proclamation that our Savior has risen and we are reconciled with God.

*Easter Day: Simplified Common Service (9:00 a.m. service): Page 12 in worship folder*

The Easter day worship service begins with the response: "Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" This assures us Jesus was victorious on Good Friday and defeated sin, death, and the devil. This service thus focuses on Jesus' triumphal resurrection from the dead.

**Service Notes**

*As the service progresses, the church lights are turned brighter. This reminds us how we gather early in the morning as the sun rises above us to remember how Jesus rose from the dead early on the first Easter morning.*

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**Service Of Light**

**HYMN 150:** *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"*

- 1. **Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!**  
**Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!**  
**See the place where he was laid; Alleluia!**  
**Praise him for the ransom paid. Alleluia!**
- 2. **For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!**  
**Sinless in the sinners' stead. Alleluia!**  
**"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!**  
**Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**
- 3. **Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!**  
**God and sinners reconciled. Alleluia!**  
**While, in strange and awefull strife, Alleluia!**  
**Met together Death and Life. Alleluia!**
- 4. **Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia!**  
**Now the first-born from the dead, Alleluia!**  
**Throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!**  
**Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!**

**Please stand**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** On this most holy morning as we celebrate how our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

**Take The Next Step**

We are so glad you took a big step and joined us for worship. You may be wondering what your next step is for connecting to Cross of Christ. Here are some options:



**Come back for worship next week.** Attending worship services is very important for people to grow in their faith in Jesus.



**Set up a time to meet.** Call or email the church office. We would be happy to set up a time to answer your questions and to share more about Cross of Christ's ministry with you.



**Enroll in "Starting Point".** This is a class environment designed for every guest to discover (or rediscover) the foundational teachings of the Bible and how they apply to their lives. Talk to the pastor if you are interested in attending.



**Stay Connected.** Stay connected with us online at [www.portagelutheranchurch.org](http://www.portagelutheranchurch.org), on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter.

**This Week At Cross of Christ (April 4 - 11, 2021)**

|             |            |  |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Sunday      | 6:00 a.m.  | Easter Sunrise Worship w/ Lord's Supper    |
|             | 9:00 a.m.  | Easter Worship w/ Lord's Supper            |
|             | 10:15 a.m. | Easter Egg Hunt for Sunday School Children |
| Monday      | 7:00 p.m.  | Worship w/ Lord's Supper                   |
| Tuesday     | 9:30 a.m.  | Bible Study                                |
| Wednesday   | 5:00 p.m.  | Confirmation Class                         |
|             | 7:00 p.m.  | Bible Study                                |
| Thursday    | 6:00 p.m.  | Church Council Meeting                     |
| Next Sunday | 9:00 a.m.  | Worship (w/ WELS Connection)               |
|             | 10:15 a.m. | Sunday School                              |
|             | 10:15 a.m. | Judges Bible Study                         |
|             | 11:15 a.m. | Sunday School Teachers Meeting             |

**Last Week's Church Attendance**

Views on Facebook Live Sunday: 84    Maundy Thursday: 28    Good Friday : 39  
Total: 151  
Sunday: 42    Monday: 13    Maundy Thursday: 39    Good Friday 3: 41  
Good Friday 7: 21    Total: 156

**Last Week's Offerings**

General: \$4,371.00    Tuition Assistance Fund: \$20.00

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.  
**C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**HYMN 149:** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <b>"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"<br/>         Saints on earth and angels say;<br/>         Raise your joys and triumphs high;<br/>         Sing, O heav'ns, and earth, reply.</b></p> | <p>4. <b>Lives again our glorious King!<br/>         Where, O death, is now your sting?<br/>         Once he died our souls to save;<br/>         Where your victory, O grave?</b></p>        |
| <p>2. <b>Love's redeeming work is done,<br/>         Fought the fight, the battle won;<br/>         Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er;<br/>         Lo, he sets in blood no more.</b></p>           | <p>5. <b>Soar we now where Christ has led,<br/>         Foll'wing our exalted head.<br/>         Made like him, like him we rise;<br/>         Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!</b></p>  |
| <p>3. <b>Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;<br/>         Christ has burst the gates of hell.<br/>         Death in vain forbids his rise;<br/>         Christ has opened paradise.</b></p>    | <p>6. <b>Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!<br/>         Praise to you by both be giv'n!<br/>         God has now fulfilled his Word;<br/>         Praise the resurrected Lord! Amen.</b></p> |

*Be seated*

**The Common Service:** Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Music from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, revised by James Engel.  
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**M:** Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion now and forever.  
**C: By his wounds we are healed now and forever.**

**M:** May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**M:** Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this day in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

**PSALM 30** (on page 76 in the front of the red hymnal)

**C: (sing) REFRAIN: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

**Sing to the Lord, you 'saints of his;\*  
 praise his 'holy name.**

**For his anger lasts only a 'moment,\*  
 but his favor lasts a 'lifetime;**

**weeping may remain 'for a night,\*  
 but rejoicing comes in the 'morning.**

**REFRAIN: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

**To you, O 'Lord, I called;\*  
 to the Lord I cried for 'mercy.**

**Hear, O Lord, and be merci'ful to me;\*  
 O Lord, 'be my help.**

**You turned my wailing into 'dancing,\*  
 that my heart may sing to you and not be 'silent.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy 'Spirit,  
 as it was in the be'ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**REFRAIN: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

## Service Of Lessons

**M:** On this most holy morning, our Savior Jesus Christ the Lord broke the power of death and by his resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for he truly keeps his word.

**C:** Amen.

### GOSPEL LESSON

**John 20:1-18**

*Jesus' resurrection from the dead guarantees he is victorious over sin, death and the devil.*

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes, <sup>11</sup> but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her,

"Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. (NIV)

**HYMN 143:** "He's Risen, He's Risen"

- 1. He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain the praises prolong.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

**C:** *(sing)* O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

*Be seated*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN 152:** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"  
*(Sunday: with trombone accompaniment)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. I know that my Redeemer lives;<br/>What comfort this sweet sentence gives!<br/>He lives, he lives, who once was dead;<br/>He lives, my ever-living Head!</b>  | <b>5. He lives to silence all my fears;<br/>He lives to wipe away my tears.<br/>He lives to calm my troubled heart;<br/>He lives, all blessings to impart.</b>                    |
| <b>2. He lives triumphant from the grave;<br/>He lives eternally to save.<br/>He lives all-glorious in the sky;<br/>He lives exalted there on high.</b>             | <b>6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;<br/>He lives and loves me to the end.<br/>He lives, and while he lives I'll sing;<br/>He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.</b> |
| <b>3. He lives to bless me with his love;<br/>He lives to plead for me above.<br/>He lives, my hungry soul to feed;<br/>He lives to help in time of need.</b>       | <b>7. He lives and grants me daily breath;<br/>He lives, and I shall conquer death.<br/>He lives my mansion to prepare;<br/>He lives to bring me safely there.</b>                |
| <b>4. He lives to grant me rich supply;<br/>He lives to guide me with his eye.<br/>He lives to comfort me when faint;<br/>He lives to hear my soul's complaint.</b> | <b>8. He lives, all glory to his name!<br/>He lives, my Jesus, still the same.<br/>Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:<br/>"I know that my Redeemer lives!"</b>                |

*Please stand*

### CLOSING PRAYER

**M:** O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## The Sacrament

### PREFACE

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sing)* And also with you.

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** *(sing)* We lift them up unto the Lord.

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C:** *(sing)* It is good and right so to do.

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**C:** *(sing)* Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

2. The Foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.
3. But short was their triumph; The Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;  
He lives, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.
4. Oh, where is your sting, Death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.
5. Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,  
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.

### SERMON LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:19-20

<sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (NIV)

### "Hope That God Keeps His Promises"

(you can follow along with the Sermon Notes sheet)

### Service of Holy Baptism

**M:** On this holiest of days, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says: "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***Please stand***

**M:** I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**C:** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**C:** **Yes, I believe in God, the Father.**

**M:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**C:** **Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ.**

**M:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C:** **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**M:** Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

**C:** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

**C:** **Amen.**

**OFFERING**

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF THEY DAY**

**M:** O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

**C:** **Christ is risen!**

**M:** For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**C:** **He is risen indeed!**

**M:** He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

**C:** **Alleluia!**

**M:** We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power, which raised him from the dead.

**C:** **We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.**

**M:** Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

**C:** **You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.**

**M:** With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

**C:** **You are risen!**

**M:** Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

**C:** **You are risen indeed!**

**M:** Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

**C:** **Alleluia!**

**M:** Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

**C:** **We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.**

**M:** Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

**C:** **He is risen!**

**M:** As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

**C:** **He is risen indeed!**

**M:** Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

**C:** **Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! Amen.**



**HYMN 156: "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" (Monday)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>Awake, my heart, with gladness!</b><br/>See what today is done;<br/>Now, after gloom and sadness,<br/>Comes forth the glorious sun.<br/>My Savior there was laid<br/>Where our bed must be made<br/>When to the realms of light<br/>Our spirit wings its flight.</p> <p>2. <b>The Foe in triumph shouted</b><br/>When Christ lay in the tomb.<br/>But low, he now is routed;<br/>His boast is turned to gloom.<br/>For Christ again is free;<br/>In glorious victory<br/>He who is strong to save<br/>Has triumphed o'er the grave.</p> <p>3. <b>This is a sight that gladdens--</b><br/>What peace it does impart!<br/>Now nothing ever saddens<br/>The joy within my heart.<br/>No gloom shall ever shake,<br/>No foe shall ever take<br/>The hope which God's own Son<br/>In love for me has won.</p> | <p>4 <b>Now I will cling forever</b><br/>To Christ, my Savior true;<br/>My Lord will leave me never,<br/>Whate'er he passes through.<br/>He rends death's iron chain;<br/>He breaks through sin and pain.<br/>He shatters hell's dark thrall;<br/>I follow him through all.</p> <p>5. <b>He brings me to the portal</b><br/>That leads to bliss untold,<br/>Whereon this rhyme immortal<br/>Is found in script of gold:<br/>"Who there my cross has shared<br/>Finds here a crown prepared;<br/>Who there with me has died<br/>Shall here be glorified."</p> |
|---|--|

**SERMON LESSON**

**1 Corinthians 15:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.  
<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (NIV)

**"Hope That God Keeps His Promises"**  
(you can follow along with the Sermon Notes sheet)

*Please stand*

**OFFERING**

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**Service of Holy Communion**

**M:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
**C:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**PREFACE**

**M:** The Lord be with you.  
**C:** *(sing)* And also with you.

**M:** Lift up your hearts.  
**C:** *(sing)* We lift them up unto the Lord.

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
**C:** *(sing)* It is good and right so to do.

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**C:** *(sing)* Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

**C:** *(sing)* O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

*Be seated*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN 152: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. I know that my Redeemer lives;<br>What comfort this sweet sentence gives!<br>He lives, he lives, who once was dead;<br>He lives, my ever-living Head!  | 5. He lives to silence all my fears;<br>He lives to wipe away my tears.<br>He lives to calm my troubled heart;<br>He lives, all blessings to impart.                    |
| 2. He lives triumphant from the grave;<br>He lives eternally to save.<br>He lives all-glorious in the sky;<br>He lives exalted there on high.             | 6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;<br>He lives and loves me to the end.<br>He lives, and while he lives I'll sing;<br>He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King. |
| 3. He lives to bless me with his love;<br>He lives to plead for me above.<br>He lives, my hungry soul to feed;<br>He lives to help in time of need.       | 7. He lives and grants me daily breath;<br>He lives, and I shall conquer death.<br>He lives my mansion to prepare;<br>He lives to bring me safely there.                |
| 4. He lives to grant me rich supply;<br>He lives to guide me with his eye.<br>He lives to comfort me when faint;<br>He lives to hear my soul's complaint. | 8. He lives, all glory to his name!<br>He lives, my Jesus, still the same.<br>Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:<br>"I know that my Redeemer lives!"                |

*Please stand*

### CLOSING PRAYER

**M:** We thank you, Lord, that you have nourished us with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with your Spirit, the Spirit of your love, that those whom you have satisfied with one heavenly bread may be united in one holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

### VERSE OF THE DAY

**Psalm 118:24**

**M:** Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia. (NIV)

**C:** *(sing)* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Please stand*

### GOSPEL LESSON

**Mark 16:1-8**

*Jesus' resurrection from the dead proves believers will live forever in heaven.*

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

<sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup>"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

<sup>8</sup>Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. (NIV)

**C:** *(sing)* Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated*

### HYMN 752: "In Christ Alone" (Sunday)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. In Christ alone my hope is found.<br>He is my light, my strength, my song;<br>This cornerstone, this solid ground,<br>Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.<br>What heights of love, what depths of peace,<br>When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!<br>My Comforter, my all in all,<br>Here in the love of Christ I stand. | 3. There in the ground his body lay,<br>Light of the world by darkness slain;<br>Then bursting forth in glorious day<br>Up from the grave he rose again!<br>And as he stands in victory,<br>Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.<br>For I am his and he is mine—<br>Bought with the precious blood of Christ.   |
| 2. In Christ alone – who took on flesh,<br>Fullness of God in helpless babe.<br>This gift of love and righteousness,<br>Scorned by the ones he came to save.<br>Till on that cross, as Jesus died,<br>The wrath of God was satisfied;<br>For ev'ry sin on him was laid,<br>Here in the death of Christ I live.                               | 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,<br>This is the pow'r of Christ in me;<br>From life's first cry to final breath,<br>Jesus commands my destiny.<br>No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man<br>Can ever pucker me from his hand;<br>Till he returns or calls me home,<br>Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand. |

**YOUTH CHOIR:** "Jesus Is Risen! Alleluia!" (Sunday)

**PSALM 118** (on page 108 in the front of the red hymnal) (Monday)

**C: (sing) REFRAIN: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

**The Lord is my strength 'and my song;\*  
he has become my sal'vation.**

**The Lord's right hand is 'lifted high;\*  
the Lord's right hand has done 'mighty things!**

**I will not 'die but live,\*  
and will proclaim what the 'Lord has done.**

**REFRAIN: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

**I will give you thanks, for you 'answered me;\*  
you have become my sal'vation.**

**The stone the builders rejected has become the 'capstone;\*  
the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous 'in our eyes.**

**This is the day the 'Lord has made;\*  
let us rejoice and be 'glad in it.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son\*  
and to the Holy 'Spirit,  
as it was in the be'ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**REFRAIN: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

*Christ's resurrection proves everyone who dies and believes in him will rise and receive eternal life in heaven.*

<sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (NIV)

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: (sing) Amen.**

**HYMN 157:** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

- 1. 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!**
- 2. 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!**
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation has procured, Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**
- 4. 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! Amen.**

*Be seated*

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## Order of Service

**M:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**HYMN 157:** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

(Sunday: with trombone and trumpet accompaniment)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Who did once upon the cross,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!</b></p> <p>2. <b>Hymns of praise then let us sing,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Unto Christ, our heav'nly King,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Who endured the cross and grave,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Sinners to redeem and save,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b></p> | <p>3. <b>But the pains which he endured,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Our salvation has procured, Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Now above the sky he's King,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!</b></p> <p>4. <b>Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Praise him, all you heav'nly host,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b><br/><b>Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,</b><br/><b>Alleluia!</b></p> |
|---|--|

*Please stand*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

**HYMN 265:1,2:** "This Is The Feast Of Victory"

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b><br/><b>Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,</b><br/><b>Whose blood set us free to be people of God.</b></p> | <p>2. <b>This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b><br/><b>Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,</b><br/><b>And honor, blessing, and glory are his.</b><br/><b>This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</b></p> |
|---|--|

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

*Be seated*

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

*Isaiah prophecies about how one day death will be swallowed up forever.*

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD Almighty  
will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine--  
the best of meats and the finest of  
wines.

<sup>7</sup> On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;  
<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the  
tears  
from all faces;  
he will remove the disgrace of his  
people  
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> In that day they will say,  
"Surely this is our God;  
we trusted in him, and he saved  
us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;  
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." (NIV)