St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Easter Celebration

April 16, 2017

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Stacey Mika, Lay Reader

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Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

Communion and Visitor Registration Cards are located in the pew racks. We ask that each member and visitor complete a Communion Card when communing, and visitors complete a Visitor card. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

¡Bienvenido!

Todos hemos llegado a San Pablo por distintos caminos y desde diferentes ámbitos de la vida. A través de adoración, estudio, oración y compañerismo que cada uno tratamos de profundizar en nuestra fe, de la comodidad y animarnos unos a otros y dedicar nuestras vidas más plenamente a Cristo en nuestros hogares, nuestra comunidad y el mundo de compartir. Todos son bienvenidos en St. Paul. Estamos deseosos de conocerte, y te invitamos a que nos conozca.

Comunión y tarjetas de registro de visita se encuentran en los estantes de pew. Pedimos que cada miembro y visitante complete una tarjeta de comunión al comulgar, y los visitantes completan una tarjeta de visitante. Tarjetas completadas pueden colocarse en el plato de ofrenda como se pasa.

Un vivero está situado en la parte trasera del Santuario en la zona de desbordamiento de.

Si usted es incapaz de escuchar un boletín o desea necesite cualquier otra asistencia, por favor indicar un usher.

Instead of death – life.

Instead of the end – the beginning.
Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the “eighth day” of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

HE IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

¡HA RESUCITADO!
¡HA RESUCITADO EN VERDAD!

HE IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Ha resucitado!
¡HA RESUCITADO EN VERDAD! ¡ALELUYA!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

Bendito sea quien viene en nombre del Señor!
Hosanna en las alturas!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

The assembly shall kneel as they are able.

Merciful God, you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.
The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG  (ELW p. 365)  Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  Amen.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

All

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

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.”

34 Then Peter began to speak. “I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same,” he said. 35 “He accepts people from every nation. He accepts anyone who has respect for him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened all through the area of Judea. It started in Galilee after John preached about baptism. 38 You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went around doing good. He healed all who were under the devil’s power. God was with him. 39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by nailing him to a cross. 40 But on the third day God raised him from the dead. God allowed Jesus to be seen. 41 But he wasn’t seen by all the people. He was seen only by us. We are witnesses whom God had already chosen. We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people. He told us to tell people that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets tell about him. They say that all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

R This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.
2 Let the people of Israel say,
   “His faithful love continues forever.”
14 The Lord gives me strength and makes me secure. He has saved me.
15 Shouts of joy ring out in the tents of godly people. They praise him for his help in battle.
They shout, “The Lord’s powerful right hand has done mighty things!
16 The Lord’s powerful right hand has won the battle! The Lord’s powerful right hand has done mighty things!”
17 I will not die but live.  
   I will talk about what the Lord has done. R
18 The Lord has really punished me. But he didn’t let me die.  
19 Open for me the gates where the godly can go in. 
   I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
20 This is the gate of the Lord. Only those who do what is right can go through it. 
21 Lord, I will give thanks to you, because you answered me. 
   You have saved me. R
22 The stone the builders didn’t accept has become the most important stone of all. 
23 The Lord has done marvelous things 
   It is wonderful in our eyes. 
24 The Lord has done it on this day. Let us be joyful today and be glad. R

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4
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.

1 You have been raised up with Christ. So think about things that are in heaven. That is where Christ is. He is sitting at God’s right hand.  
2 Think about things that are in heaven. Don’t think about things that are only on earth.  
3 You died. Now your life is hidden with Christ in God.  
4 Christ is your life. When he appears again, you also will appear with him in heaven’s glory.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John’s gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because...
I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.  

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON  

Pastor Arden Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY  

(ELW p. 376)  

Thine Is the Glory

NICENE CREED

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.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. We pray for the church. Unite all Christians in our shared calling to proclaim the gospel. Raise up women and men to serve as faithful leaders. Make us bold witnesses to the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, you so love the world that you sent Jesus, and our world so needs your love. With the whole Church we implore you to call forth pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders to lead us in bearing Christ to all the world so that the world may know your love. We pray especially for those in this faith community the Holy Spirit may be nudging to public ministry in the church and Christ-like service in the world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the earth. Renew your creation with seasonable weather and growth. Protect plants and animals from the damage of excessive heat or cold, drought or flooding, windstorm or hail. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the nations. Bring peace to communities torn apart by warfare, especially Syria and South Sudan. Guide all refugees to safety. Bolster the courage of those who put themselves in danger to preserve the lives of others. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in need. Shelter the homeless. Protect those who suffer abuse or neglect. Befriend the lonely. Give peace to the dying, comfort the bereaved, and heal the sick, especially Pauline, Shane, Norma, Ann, Lorene, Steve, Francis, Carol, Ella, Emil, Alfred, Johnny, Linda, Charles, Eli, Steve, Hope, Tom, Bo, Rose, Lawrence, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Free us from fear, and renew us in faith. Bless the newly baptized, those who seek to know your love, and all who come to your holy table. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially Lathan Walleck, and all who yearn for the fulfillment of your Easter promise of resurrection and life. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. The assembly stands.

OFFERING HYMN (ELW 182) Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
OFFERING PRAYER

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. 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.

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:

El Señor esté con ustedes.
y también con usted.

Los levantamos al Señor.

Vamos a dar gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.
Es justo darle nuestro agradecimiento y alabanza.

Es hecho justo, nuestro deber y nuestra alegría, que nos debe en todo momento y en todo lugar darle gracias y alabanza, todopoderoso y misericordioso Dios, de la gloriosa resurrección de nuestro Salvador Jesucristo, el verdadero cordero Pascual que se entregó para llevar nuestro pecado, que en muriendo ha destruido la muerte, y en aumento nos ha traído a la vida eterna. Y así, con Mary Magdalene y Peter y todos los testigos de la resurrección, con tierra y mar y sus criaturas y con Ángeles y arcángeles, querubines y serafines, alabamos tu nombre y Únete a su himno interminable:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin’s womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

The assembly joins hands to pray:

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, the power, and the

La Asamblea se une a las manos para orar:

Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu reino, tu voluntad hacer, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; y perdónanos nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

No matter what you have done or your situation, Christ invites, to His table, all who love Him and earnestly repent of their sin and who seek to live in peace with one another. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is invited for Easter Fun & Fellowship following Worship this morning!

The Living Lutheran magazine is available to all members of the congregation at a greatly reduced rate of $8.95 for 12 editions. If you’re interested in subscribing to this publication, please provide your name and mailing address to a council member TODAY.

April 19, 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) – Church Council

April 23 - WELCA Thankoffering Worship Service - Thankoffering envelopes are available at the rear of the sanctuary. Volunteers are needed to be readers, acolytes and ushers. All females in the congregation are encouraged to participate. Speak with Stacey Mika for more information.

April 23, 3:00 p.m. (St. John Lutheran, Robstown) – Pre-Assembly Meeting All Lutherans are invited and encouraged to attend. If you’d like to carpool, speak with Paul Pfeifer, Mike or Dale Tessman.

April 30 – Stewardship of Creation Worship Service

May 5-7 – Synod Assembly – Please uphold all participants in prayer as they work together to further God’s work within our Synod, our Nation and our World.

May 7 – Lay Worship Service – Speak with Pastor Dorn or Dale Tessman if you’d like to participate in the service. We need readers, acolytes and ushers.

Relay For Life of Karnes County will be on May 20, 2017 at Joe Gulley Park in Kenedy from 5pm - 12am. Anyone interested in this event, would like more information, or to register as a survivor or participant visit relayforlife.org/karnescotx/ or contact Barbara Jonas.

Lay Readers for April

April 23 – Paul Pfeifer        April 30 – Stacey Mika

SENDING

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

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

BENDICIÓN

que nos ha traído de la muerte a la vida que Dios te colme de gran alegría. + Dios Todopoderoso, padre, hijo y Espíritu Santo, bendigan ahora y siempre. Amén.
SENDING HYMN  (ELW p. 382)  Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
**Thanks be to God.**

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

The assembly is seated.

FOR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

**Ill or Injured**

**For those in the military**
Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Taylor Griffin, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.
Brothers and sisters in Christ,  

In this Holy Week and with the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection and the Easter Season on the horizon, please know that you are in my prayers in this very busy and important week of ministry. May your worship services, sermons, and personal devotions be focused on Christ who walks the way of the cross and out of death into life.

While many people commit to some type of Lenten discipline, I’d like to offer an idea for the Easter Season. This is meant to be a time of celebrating Christ’s resurrection and growing in our faith, just like those early disciples dealt with the joy and doubt of seeing Jesus alive with them. So, I commend to you the ELCA’s Faith Practices resources (www.elca.org/faithpractices). They will be useful for you as you strive to create followers of Christ who are committed to growing in faith, love, and obedience to God’s will. The “Five Gifts of Discipleship” resources highlight the current Faith Practices of the ELCA and offer not only Bible studies related to these faith practices, but also group activities corresponding to the various liturgical seasons, even beyond the Easter season. The resource, “Story Matters,” is also posted and this resource provides ministry settings the opportunity to combine the Book of Faith Initiative, Discipleship Small Groups, and Mission Strategic Planning. For more information, you can contact Rev. Brenda K. Smith at Brenda.Smith@elca.org.

Please know that I will be keeping you in prayer every day of this Holy Week. May the Holy Spirit help us keep our eyes on Jesus.

God’s peace,

Bp+Ray
The beautiful lilies that adorn our sanctuary were shared with us by:

Debra and Ronnie Buehring and Family  
*In memory of Loved Ones & In Thanksgiving for God’s many blessings*

Alva Jonas  
*In memory of Jessie Jonas*

Philip & Stacey Mika  
*In memory of Gilbert Mika and Jessie Jonas*

Dorothy Rippstein  
*In memory of Her Loved Ones*

**QUESTION: Easter lily origin - Is it spiritual?**

**ANSWER:**

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden by the teardrops of Eve that she spread while leaving the Garden of Eden. They were teardrops of repentance. The Easter lily also has its roots in pagan rituals - specifically, Hera, the queen of motherhood.

For the Christian, the Easter lily is used in a positive sense and represents many things. The Easter lily is representative of Christ's resurrection, it speaks of purity and innocence, being untainted by the world. The Easter lily also represents a new season, a new birth, such as when one comes to Christ.

Many times, the enemy (Satan) takes the things that God has created and distorts them, causing people to be deceived, and believe a lie. The Easter lily is not to be worshipped, however the lily can be used as a sign to represent new life.

How do you view the Easter lily? What does it mean to you? Does it represent Christ's death and resurrection? Is the Easter lily symbolic of a new birth? Does the Easter lily relate to innocence or purity? God uses many things of this world, even the earth and its entire splendor as a sign.