

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church - 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506

April 4, 2021

814.868.8685 - ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.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!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Gathering

Greeting and Announcements ~

Today we welcome the Rev. Andrew Edwards as our presiding minister.

Prelude ~ Sheryl Williams

Please Stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

Processional Hymn ELW 365 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!* v.1, 2

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!

Greeting

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise ~ WOV 789 *Now the Feast*

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

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.**

Please be seated

Word

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-9

More than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the good news of God's salvation and calls all people to rejoice! God will make a rich feast for all people. God will wipe the tears from their eyes. And most importantly, God will destroy death itself.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Hymn *This is the Day* Based on Psalm 118

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. *Alleluia*

Gospel Reading Mark 16:1-8

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

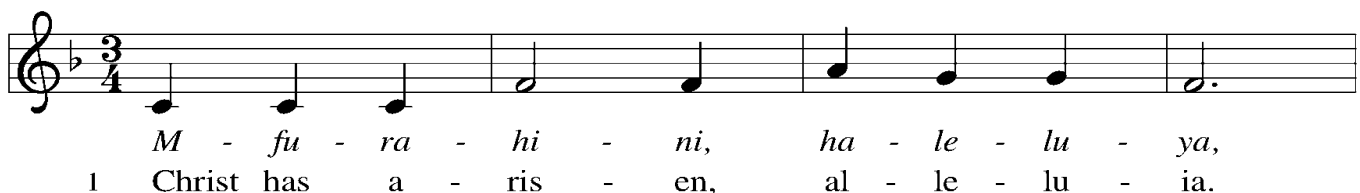
¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But 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. ⁷But 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." ⁸So 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon ~ Pastor Andrew Edwards

Hymn of the Day ~ ELW 364 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia v.1,5



M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.



m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
 Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.

Refrain
Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
 Alleluia, to him praises be.
 Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
 he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Refrain

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

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. *A brief silence.*

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.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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, those who grieve, and for those who have asked for our prayers: (*read first names only from the prayer list in bulletin, then add "and others whose names we speak aloud or silently in our hearts."*). Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!"

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you. Amen.**

Please be seated

Meal

An Offering Moment

All that we have and all that we are - are gifts from God. We can only respond with gratitude. At this time, we invite you to consider your offerings for God's abundant blessings. Know that your gifts make a difference to the mission and ministry of the church. We thank you for these offerings which are received in the offering plate, online, or in the mail. Each act of generosity - of your time, talent, and financial resources - helps us to grow as disciples of Jesus ... who we celebrate today as our risen Lord and Savior. Alleluia!

Please stand

Offering Prayer

God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

Please hold the communion elements in your hands as we give thanks and remember:

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
**we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and
 forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine; here is Jesus. Take and eat his body and blood. They are given for you. We eat and drink together.

For our non-communing children and adults, receive this blessing: Remember you are a baptized child of God. May Jesus be with you now and forever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy,
**through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still
 around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the
 hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

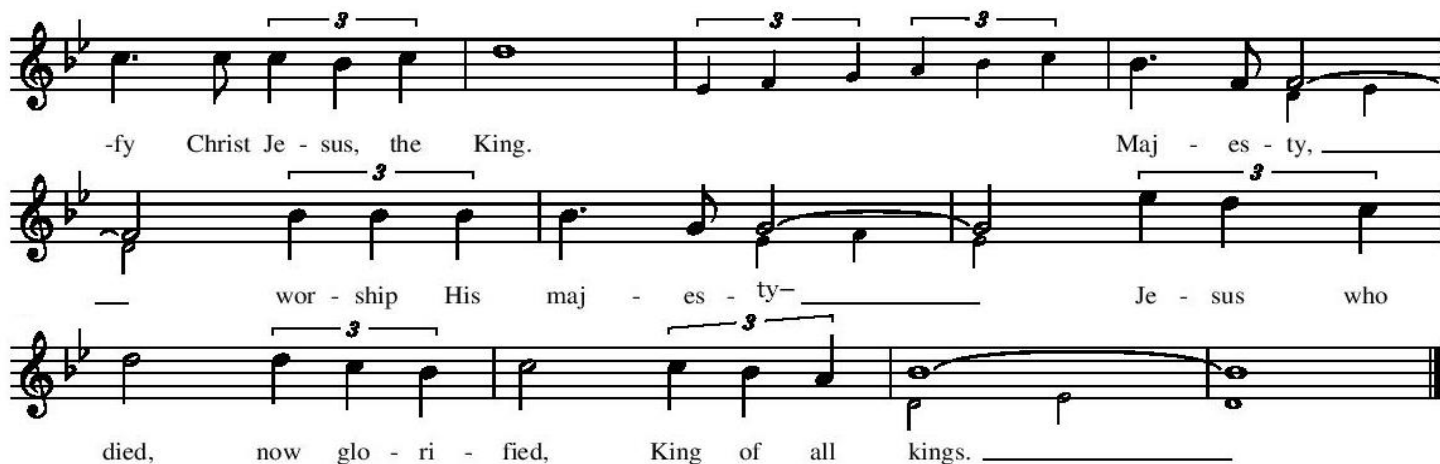
May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
 The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~

Majesty

Hayford

Maj - es - ty, wor-ship His maj - es - ty. Un - to
 Je - sus be all glo - ry, hon - or, and praise. Maj - es - ty,
 king-dom au - thor - i - ty flow from His throne un - to His
 own; His an - them raise. So ex - alt, lift up on
 high the name of Je - sus. Mag - ni - fy, come glo - ri -



Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Parish Notes ~ April 4, 2021

Please pray for:

Family and friends of Rabin Subedi, Pastor Andrew and Diane Edwards and family, Pr. Gail Zackrison and family, Bishop Lozano, Joe Bennett, Bob Pacileo, Don Fuller, Gloria & Richard Wolbach, Shirley Wolbach, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Lynn, Joyce Hersperger, Sandy Pacileo, Trevor Murnock, Carrie Fiske, Teresa Burgess.

Prayer Requests: Please call or email Carol Whitbred with prayer requests.

Phone: 814-866-6552, E-Mail: cew6@psu.edu. Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-2:30. On other days, you may contact our council president Andy Saska at avsaska@roadrunner.com or 814-450-5620.

Pastoral Emergencies: Please contact Pastor Andrew Edwards at parevedwards@gmail.com or 814.474.4570.

Packaged Communion Sets are available for your use during worship services. If you worship online, please pick yours up at church on Monday & Tuesday 9:30 am-2:30 pm, or make other arrangements with any council member.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? How about Financial Secretary?

According to our constitution and bylaws, no elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than five consecutive terms in the same office. Therefore, someone other than Pat Wenzel will need to be Financial Secretary in 2022. The main duties are entering weekly contributions, composing monthly reports to church council, and mailing out quarterly statements. It averages about 2 hours a week...any day or time that is convenient for you as long as the office computer is available.

If this is something that interests you, contact Pat Wenzel and arrange to shadow her (in person or virtually) to acquaint yourself with the job. Contact her at RNWenzel@gmail.com or phone 864-1898.

During this time of transition,

Guest worship leaders have been invited to preside at worship services. Because of this, sermons may not always be included in the USPS bulletin mailings.

April 11: Greg Zimmerman. Lay Distributor of Holy Communion, Judi Pacileo

FINANCES at AHLCL

\$10,104 current offerings received in March 2021

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 **budgeted** expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

YEAR-TO-DATE (as of end of March)

\$33,961 year-to-date current offerings received

\$36,453 year-to-date needed for **budgeted** expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

In-person Sunday worship services. We will continue to email and mail weekly worship bulletins for all who worship at home. We will observe these guidelines when in the building to keep everyone safe.

- There will be only one service at 9:30 AM on Sundays.
- We will continue to live-stream on FaceBook, then post the service to our web page.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
- If you have any symptoms, please stay home.
- Our seating arrangement will reflect social distancing.
 - Only families can sit together
 - There is a limit of approximately 25 people (depending on the number of families sitting together). Pews will be taped off.
- There will be a sign-in sheet in case of a need for contact tracing.
- Printed bulletins will be placed on the pews.
- We will **not** be sharing the peace. We will only be singing 2 verses of a song.
- Communion will be in the pews with the packaged communion wafer and wine.

Easter ~ 2021 We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!

Flowers

In Memory of:

LeRoy & Charlotte Doehrel

From The 4-A's

Art & Doris Watson

Marion Siira, David Will, Sr.

From Beverly Will, Gary & Andrea Watson

Jim Pacileo - Husband, Dad, Grandpa

From His Family

Anthony & Bernice Pokosh, Milton Luke

Neal & Bette Moffett, Dean Moffett

In Celebration of Life

From Pat Wenzel

In Celebration of Our Abiding Hope Family

From Dave & Nancy Cuning

KAFP

In Memory of:

Bob Wygant, Rev. & Mrs. Paul Porath

From Marian Wygant

Norma & Bob Hitchcock

Ruth & Dick Curtis

From Jeanne & Bob Curtis

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

Today we celebrate the festival of Easter. It may sound a bit ironic following the events that have preceded the day, the betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion of Jesus. The resurrection seems oddly out of place. The resurrection, or raising of Jesus Christ from the dead by God, represents Christ's victory over death. It symbolizes for us the hope that underlies our faith, our "Christ-Hope" as one commentator put it.

In the OT text from Isaiah, we hear: "he [God] will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever" (and) "God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth..."

Isaiah is directing his words to the children of Israel regarding how God is re-establishing his relationship with them and the promises he is making. "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Paul's testimony in addressing the Corinthians relates: "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me." Paul tells us that it is through no effort of his but rather by "the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain "that all he has proclaimed has been by the grace of God that is with him and that through the proclamation of the early disciples that others have come to believe in Jesus Christ.

Mark's recounting of the Resurrection story focuses on the sabbath being over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and prepare Jesus' body for burial. They went to the tomb. 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 (amazed or awe).

The aftermath of the story is the mystery surrounding the "true" ending. The short ending has the women informing Peter and those around him all that had transpired. And that afterwards Jesus himself sent out through "his disciples", from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation, realized through God's grace. The longer ending focuses on the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his apostles, concluding with Jesus' ascension and sitting at the right hand of God. Followed by the disciples (let's call them "apostles" at this point) proclaiming the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Our Christ-hope is centered on Jesus' fulfillment of God's promises which we heard in the words given to us through the prophet Isaiah: "we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!