

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 15 S 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org Office Phone: 717-234-4064
12:10pm WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 1st Wednesday Communion Service
April 3, 2024
Lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

WELCOME TO THE PROMISED LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

AS WE GATHER

Finally! At long last! We made it! Easter has arrived, and we gather to speak the praises of Him who was crucified and now bursts forth from death's grave! As the children of Israel wandered through the wilderness for forty years, they held fast to the hope that the land flowing with milk and honey was waiting for them. As we have journeyed through the season of Lent over the last forty days, we have anticipated the joy that we share together this Easter season. We have also learned to look ahead, all the way to the promised treasure of life everlasting in heavenly glory. Today's feasting with our risen Savior gives us a preview of what awaits us in eternal life. And on that glorious coming day, we know what we will say: Finally! At long last! We made it!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
P Christ has risen from the dead.
C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**
P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
C **He has put all things under His feet.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Philippians 2:1-11*

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:
C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

- P Your Father led His people of old to the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. You also have promised us the gift of unending life, which we sinners do not deserve.
- C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**
- P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.
- C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**
- P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. On this very day He conquered sin and death, opening for us the way to life everlasting in the promised land of heaven. As a called and ordained 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 **Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, Your servant Joshua led the children of Israel through the waters of the Jordan River into a land flowing with milk and honey.
- C **As our Joshua, lead us, we pray, through the waters of our Baptism into the promised land of our eternal home,**
- P where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1–10

- P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the third chapter.

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have

come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

John 6:68

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

PRAYER

P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You that You raised Your Son from death’s grave so that life everlasting may be given to us through faith in Him.

C **Grant that the promised treasures of Your Word remind us of the inheritance we have received.**

P Lead us to a firm reliance upon our risen Savior, trusting that He is victorious over our greatest enemies of sin, death, and the power of the devil.

C Help us to know the power of His resurrection, sharing together the joy of His Easter triumph.

P Lord Jesus, grant that the message of that first Easter Day change hearts and lives on this day when we celebrate Your victory over death and the grave. Give strength and peace to those who grieve the death of those they love.

C Help them to know that You are preparing a family reunion in heaven for all who trust in You.

P As You now reign with the Father at His right hand, You govern all the peoples and nations of the world, including the country where we live. We are strangers in this land that is not our own, so give us hearts that anticipate the day You will welcome us into eternal life,

C gathering us and all Your people into the promised land, where we will dwell with You forever.

P Holy Spirit, You bring the reality of Jesus' resurrection into our lives today, uniting with Christ those who have been baptized into His name.

C Bless us through any joy or triumph, defeat or difficulty we may face.

P We lift up before You ourselves, our families, our community, and our family in Christ in this congregation, [*especially . . .*]. Holy Spirit, give us joy in knowing the fellowship of the communion of saints, the peace of sins forgiven, the comfort of the resurrection, and the sure and certain hope of life everlasting with You in the promised land of heaven.

C All glory, honor, and praise belongs to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may raise up in us a living faith in our risen Savior. Prepare us to look forward joyfully to our heavenly inheritance in Your promised land, even as we now receive Christ Jesus as He comes to us in His body and blood.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

All baptized persons who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine are welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Take an empty cup to receive wine from the assisting minister. Grape juice is available in pre-filled cups.

*For those continuing to fast from the sacrament, you are invited to pray the following prayer,
The Spiritual Communion:*

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you were already there,

and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Deepen our trust in Your Son as we walk by faith and hope throughout our days of pilgrimage,

C **looking forward to our inheritance of the heavenly promised land;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Presiding Minister: Pastor Karin Pejack

Minister of Technology: Catherine Germann

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ADDITIONAL READINGS ON THE THEME:

Welcome to the Promised Land of Milk and Honey

PSALM

Psalm 118:19–24, 27a, 28–29

P Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

C **This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

P I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.

C **The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

P This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.

C **You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You.**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

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

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:19–28

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "God has put all things in subjection under His feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.

LOOKING AHEAD:

April 10 – May 29 (Wednesdays) 12:10pm WOW Series: "Organic Discipleship"

May 5 (Sunday): 4:00pm Wednesday Club Concert featuring Organ Music at Zion

**May 9 (Thursday): 7:15pm Himmelfahrt/Ascension German Service with English translation
6:15pm Coffee & Cake**

May 19 (Sunday): 3:00pm Hummelstown Community Singers Spring Concert

At Hummelstown United Church of Christ, 104 E Main St, Hummelstown, PA 17036

Weekly Schedule

Sunday (Communion & Healing Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

9:00am **Sunday School** (in-person only)

9:45am **Fellowship** (in-person only)

10:15am **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Wednesday (Communion on the 1st Wednesday)

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday** (in-person & online)

12:35pm **Lunch Fellowship** (in-person only)