



“The Empty Tomb”

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/worship/>.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, or online.

Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

Preparing for Worship

While it was still dark.

While it was still night.

While she could not see.

While she thought death held sway.

While she grieved.

While she wept.

While it was still dark, resurrection began.

Seen (For Easter Day) - Jan Richardson

You had not imagined
that something so empty
could fill you
to overflowing,
and now you carry
the knowledge
like an awful treasure
or like a child
that curls itself
within your heart:
how the emptiness
will bear forth
a new world
you cannot fathom
but on whose edge
you stand.
So why do you linger?
You have seen,
and so you are
already blessed.
You have been seen,
and so you are
the blessing.
There is no other word
you need.
There is simply
to go
and tell.
There is simply
to begin.

Easter Fanfare

Easter Proclamation

Alleluia! He is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this day, we celebrate that Jesus overcame death, so that we may have new life.

Alleluia!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Music *"Hope Will Rise Again"* - Words and music by Andra Moran and Ben Grace

Easter morning, Sunday dawning

Love is shining bright

Flowers waking,

Earth is shaking resonating life

Now the stone is rolled away

He is risen from the grave!

Chorus:

We are Easter people now;
turning power upside down
In the valley of the shadow,
we're the candle in the window
Saying Hope will rise again

Everybody, hear the story
Grace is given free
All together, true forever
There's no where
Love can't reach
So let the walls be broken down
Revolution all around

Chorus

Can you feel it rising now, springing up from the frozen ground
Can you hear the echoes sound...

In the valley of the shadow,
we're the candle in the window In the broken pieces,
healing In our unbelief, believing
Saying Hope will rise, Hope will rise, Hope will rise again!

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

Risen Messiah,
Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Glory be to you, whom death could not defeat. Praise to the savior of heaven and earth. Honor and glory are yours, now and forever, Christ our savior and redeemer. **Amen.**

Music ***"Let Creation Sing"* – Words and music by Paul Zach and Andy Zipf**

Chorus:

Let all creation sing before the Lord
and every nation of the earth rejoice,
let all the trees lift a shout of joy
for the Lord is King.
Let the deep waters of the sea resound,
let every mountain, every hill sing out,
let all the fields make a joyful sound
for the Lord is King.

Mighty river, barren desert,
howling wind and stormy weather,
every canyon every valley,
sing your praise and give him glory.

Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name. *Chorus*

Every star and constellation,
every wonder in the heavens,
silver moon and supernova,
sing a shining hallelujah!

Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name. *Chorus*

Honey bees and weeping willows,
grizzly bears and armadillos,
every narwhal and sea otter,
every son and every daughter.

Nature proclaims the glory of our God,
nature proclaims his name. *Chorus*

La la la la la la - All the earth, praise the Lord
La la la la la la - All the earth, praise the Lord

Gospel **Luke 24:1-12**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Reading **Acts 10:34-43**

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Message

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Music *"This Creative Love"* – Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

This creative love is in us, in us
This creative love is in all of us, in all of us
so we give ourselves to one another
and we give our very best to this creative love
This creative love

This unfailing love is for us, for us
This unfailing love is for all of us, for all of us
so we give ourselves to one another
and we give our very best to this unfailing love
This unfailing love

This expansive love is with us, with us
This expansive love is with all of us, with all of us
so we give ourselves to one another
and we give our very best to this expansive love
This expansive love

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 the People

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 in their unending hymn.

**We pray for the lonely ones
knowing that some of us are lonely
and we pray for the heartbroken ones
knowing that some of us are heartbroken**

**All our hearts and minds
are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way
of love in the world**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God. **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.**

**We pray for the wounded
knowing that some of us are wounded
and we pray for the regretful ones
knowing that some of us are regretful**

**All our hearts and minds
are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way
of love in the healing**

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve. Assure them of your promises. Gracious Lord, we give to you all people, places and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds . . . 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.**

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.**

**We pray for the dying ones knowing
that some of us are dying
and we pray for the newly born ones
knowing that some of us are arriving**

**All our hearts and minds
are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way
of love in the world. Amen.**

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 Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing and Sending

Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,
that we may show your glory to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! **Alleluia!**

Postlude "Whole Heart Hallelujah" (Psalm 111) –Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Chorus:

This is our whole heart Hallelujah
Our cup is running over, running over so
This is our whole heart Hallelujah
A never-ending waterfall of love

Verse 1:

The covenant of love is strong in our history
Mercy is with us Justice is with us

Verse 2:

The covenant of love is ancient to our people
It will last forever God is with us

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Limited in-person worship is now being held. Pre-registration is required each week to attend in-person. We will be following social distancing guidelines as well, and masks will be required. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please register online or call the church office and leave a voicemail message. We will call you back to confirm. Sanctuary doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

CURRENT PHASE: 2

- **Limited in-person worship.** Pre-registration is required to attend in-person. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please **sign up** on the church website at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> or by calling the church office. **Please sign up each household individual.** Again, use the sanctuary doors to enter the building. Doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building.
- Visitors must wear a facemask and keep to social distancing guidelines.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

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