

April 9, 2023

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Known by Name

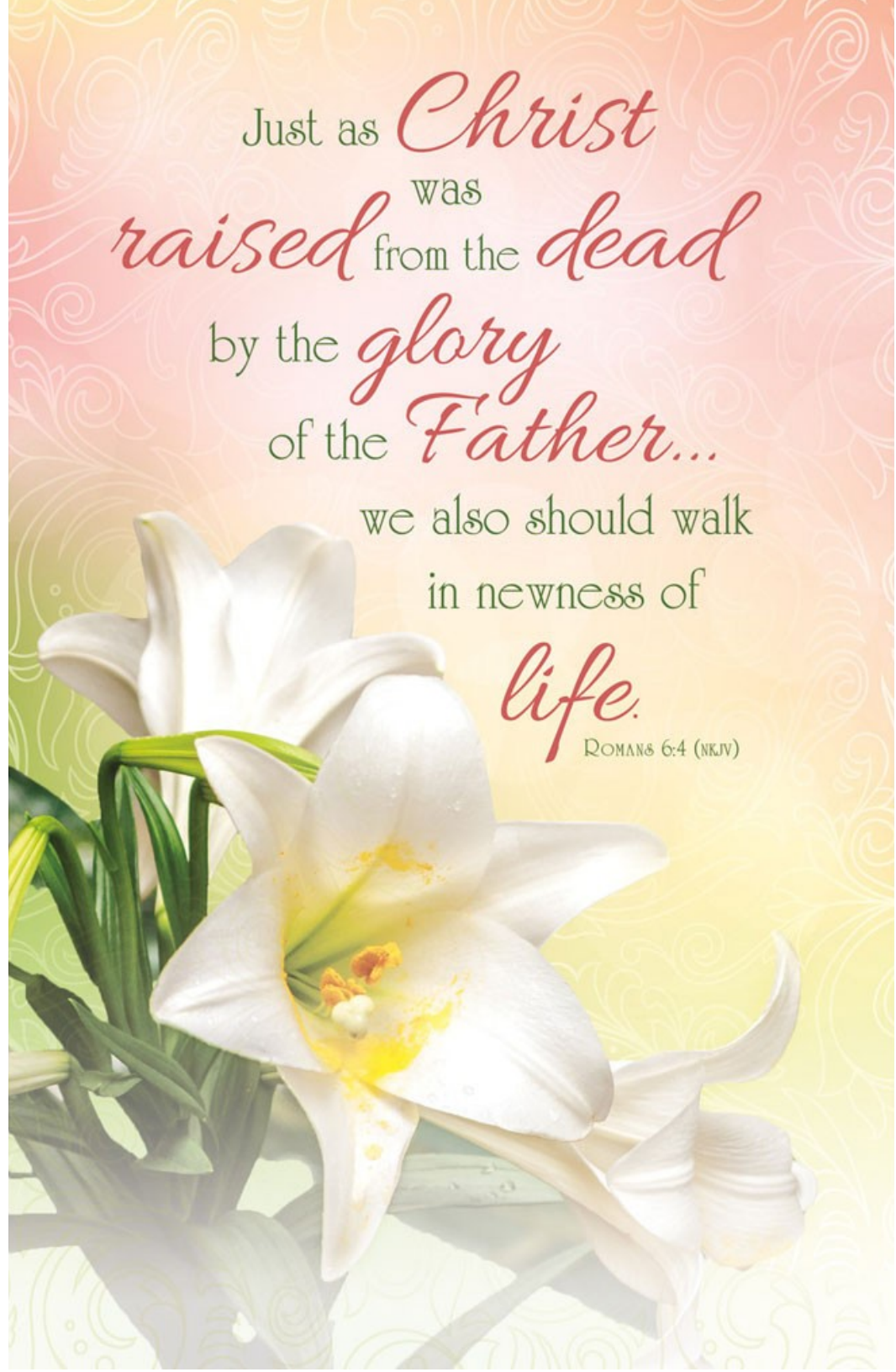
In both Matthew and John, the risen Christ first appears to Mary Magdalene. Who was Mary Magdalene, and what does the risen Jesus' appearance to her mean to us?

We know very little of Mary Magdalene from the gospels, beyond the fact that she is usually listed first among the women who followed Jesus. The mere fact that she was a woman led to her testimony being discounted early on. In the second century a philosopher named Celsus mocked Christian belief in the resurrection as being based on a story told by a hysterical woman! The theologian Origen replied to this charge, not by defending Mary Magdalene, but by saying that lots of prominent men were witnesses as well.

God, however, was not concerned to limit the pool of witnesses to those who would impress the philosophers. Jesus listened to, and loved, women and children, Samaritans and Romans, men on the margins and solid citizens. For Jesus, each of these had a name to be spoken with respect and love. He called women as well as men to be his followers; a woman without a proper husband was the first to spread the word for him in Samaria. What mattered was not whether the world would judge them as people of authority, as people to be listened to; what mattered was that Jesus had listened to them and they had listened to Jesus.

Easter dawns, and the risen Jesus appears to women as well as to men, to deniers and deserters as well as to those who stood by the cross, to doubters as well as to those who believed at first sight. Some will find their testimony discounted due to how society sees them. But Jesus doesn't discount any one of them. The risen Christ continues to know and love us, not by status or accomplishment or merit, but by name.

Just as *Christ*
was
raised from the *dead*
by the *glory*
of the *Father...*
we also should walk
in newness of
life.
ROMANS 6:4 (NKJV)



April 9, 2023

Resurrection of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

Closing Song

"Thine Is the Glory"

No. 376

Dismissal

P: Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

READER

Toni Wilbarger

ACOLYTES

Vanessa Miller, Cam Schumaker

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

GUEST MUSICIAN

Adam Ladd, trumpet

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: The reign of God is at hand. Come, taste the joy prepared for you.

(Please be seated)

The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.

“All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest.”

When coming to receive Communion, please fill out a Communion registration card located in the pew rack and give it to the usher.

(Please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God’s grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of † Christ the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl
Church Musician—Dr. Anthony Pattin

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR EASTER— 10:30 am

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ringing of the Bell

(Please stand)

(The pastor removes the black veil from the altar cross while saying:)

P: Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: “And he 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.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces.”
(Isaiah 25:7)

C: He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

P: Christ is risen.

C: He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Processional

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today!”

No. 365

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: This is the day when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave.

C: How blessed is this day when earth and heaven are joined and humanity is reconciled with God.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of grace and glory,

C: you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

P: Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and † frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Children's Message

Pastor Rayl

As the children return to their seats, the congregation will sing:

"Children of the Heavenly Father," verses 1 – 2

No. 781

1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather,
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful, God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

P: 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.

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

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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;

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: your mercy is great.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!" Lloyd Larson
FSJ Chancel Choir
Adam Ladd, trumpet

(Please stand)

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day
you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life
in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you
and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

P: It is indeed our 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.

2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they
flourish. From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he
bears them.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:1-6

*Jeremiah tells of the day when God's people will be restored, using images reminiscent
of the exodus: merrymaking with tambourine and dance as at the Red Sea, the entry
into the promised land and planting of pleasant vineyards, the rebuilding of the city of
God.*

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and
they shall be my people.

²Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant,

and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

"Come, let us go up to Zion,

to the LORD our God."

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but I shall live**

and recount the deeds of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ **I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as well as for Christ! The Lord has risen to become our life, which is no longer linked to the uncertainties of this world but is securely "hidden" with Christ in God.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse (please stand)

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

Gospel Acclamation (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 20.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter morn: the stone is moved and the tomb is empty; disciples race back and forth, while angels speak to a weeping woman. Finally, Jesus himself appears as the Lord in unity with God.

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. ²So 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."

³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.'"
¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

Message Song "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" No. 367

Pastor Rayl

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.