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All Locked Up and Not Sure Where to Go

Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

SUNDAY, APR. 26, 2020

We have begun an Easter sermon series entitled, "We're All in this Together." We have things to learn from the early followers of Jesus who, after the tragedy of Good Friday, were wondering where to go next.

Was the movement over? Should they just pack up and head home? Was there any reason to be hopeful? Slowly, the news about Easter and the empty tomb began to spread. But that didn't mean it was easy to believe...and act on.

In this week's reading, the disciples are in the Upper Room and the doors are locked. The news of Jesus' resurrection has been spreading and it's causing quite a stir, especially in the synagogues. The Risen Christ makes a surprise visit and assures them that the good news of the angel is true. Slowly the doubting disciples come to believe it. We can imagine that sometime down the road, the locked doors of the disciples will be opened and they will go forth to share the good news of Easter. But one step at a time. And only as they follow the lead of God's Spirit.

This is the last Sunday we are worshipping in our sanctuary built in 1969. As a way to honor the worship we have experienced here over the years, we will listen to two anthems from the Zumbro Lutheran Choir. We will offer prayers of gratitude and a final blessing upon this space. And we will pray for God's blessings as workers begin renovation work in earnest this week.

This coming week we will move our Sunday and Wednesday worship to the Fireside Room. We have moved it from the Fellowship Hall because of improved technology in the Fireside Room.

Worship will continue to be streamed online. We are working on ways that the radio broadcast can continue while we relocate to another part of our building.

As you prepare your heart for worship during the prelude, you are invited to pray:
Lord, as we gather in this worship space today, remind me of lives you have claimed, loved, and fed
along the way, including my own. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Worshippers are invited to dip a finger in water, make a sign of the cross on their forehead, and remember their baptism.

HYMN

ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!

(EARTH AND ALL STARS)

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*

City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

CHRIST HAS ARISEN, ALLELUIA



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 un - til its strength by, God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.



For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go.
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.



e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of Easter,

C: Sometimes we feel as if we're behind locked doors. We're anxious and afraid, and not sure where to go next. Come to us in hope. Fill us with your peace. And lead us beyond our fears and uncertainty to the way we should go. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

TRADITIONAL CARIBBEAN

sing before and after the songleader sings the verse

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 20:19-31 NRSV

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

TRADITIONAL CARIBBEAN

sing twice

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

STORY TIME

JANETTE REEVES

SERMON

ALL LOCKED UP AND NOT SURE WHERE TO GO PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

HYMN

CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING

(TRURO)

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God
in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition the congregation responds:

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into
your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

ANTHEM

AMAZING GRACE

ARR. KEITH MCCUTCHEN

ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR; RALPH SCHORNACK, PIANO
(RECORDED IN LIVE PERFORMANCE, 2005)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR 1969 SANCTUARY

L: Today we gather for the final time in the 1969 sanctuary of Zumbro Lutheran Church. We give thanks for the ministry that has happened here, and for the people who have been fed and nurtured in the Christian faith. Even as we mark the end of an era in one place, we acknowledge how we all are participants in God's mission that continues beyond this day.

At the place of the word

L: O God, your mighty word at the dawn of creation breathed life into the earth and all of its inhabitants. By the gift of your incarnate Word in Jesus, you brought good news of life and salvation to all humankind. Through your word proclaimed in worship here, this congregation has been challenged and healed. Let your voice, which has sounded in this place, echo in our lives as we proclaim your message of peace into the places you send us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

At the place of baptism

L: O God, through the flood in the time of Noah, and through the waters of the Red Sea, you saved your people of old. Through the waters of baptism in this place, your people have been born to new life and have been sent forth to serve in Christ's name. May all the baptized continue to give witness to your saving grace throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

At the place of the meal

L: O God, through manna on a wilderness journey and through loaves of bread multiplied on a hillside, you fed people who needed sustenance for their bodies and souls. May all who have been nourished here with the body and blood of Christ give themselves away as food for the hungry. May all who have feasted here welcome others to the banquet of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: For the one holy, catholic and apostolic church in all times and places, of which this congregation and its building are a part, we give our thanks and praise. For the men and women who founded this congregation, who made personal sacrifices in order for it to grow and flourish, and who used their talents and skills in building up a community of faith, we give our thanks and praise.

For all who hold special attachment to this congregation and to this building; for those who have been baptized, nurtured in faith, confirmed, or married in this place; that the Holy Spirit's gifts continue to sustain them even as this congregation goes through a time of transition.

For the members of this congregation who will continue gathering as a people in a renovated worship space, that today will mark not only the end of an era but also the beginning of new and vibrant opportunities for worship and service.

C: Thanks be to God.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

ANTHEM

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

PETER LUTKIN

ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR
(RECORDED IN LIVE PERFORMANCE, 2005)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift his countenance upon you;
And give you peace.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

HYMN

THINE IS THE GLORY

(JUDAS MACCABAEUS)

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain*

SENDING

Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

POSTLUDE

FESTIVE GLORIA

AARON DAVID MILLER

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**-Jason Bryan-Wegner, Shelley Cunningham; **STORY TIME**-Janette Reeves; **ORGANIST**-Kristy Giere; **SINGING**-Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere, director; **SONGLEADERS**-Janette Reeves, Jason Bryan-Wegner; **LITURGICAL DANCERS**-Ann Holmes, Sara Holmes

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This morning's radio broadcast has been sponsored by Orphie Stensrud in loving memory of her husband, Norm.

Congratulations to:

Alysson (Giere) and Joel Pehoski on the birth of their son, Arlo Joel, on April 18.

Harold Geerdes who is celebrating his 95th birthday on May 3.

Prayers for Healing:

Krista Jacobson

Sympathy to:

Tim (Sarah) Larson on the death of his mother, Joan Larson.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

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