

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office / 436-6213    Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn  
Andrea Cameron  
Robert St. Clair

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Organist

## COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE March 31, 2013 – 6:30 a.m.

(Congregational parts are in **bold letters**)  
(\* Please stand (if you are able))

### BEGINNING IN MESSIAH CEMETERY

#### THE EMPTY TOMB DISCOVERED (Luke 24:1-12)

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The 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. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But 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.

Pastor: *He is Risen*      Congregation: **He is Risen**  
Pastor: *He is Risen*      Congregation: **He is Risen**  
Pastor: *He is Risen*      Congregation: **He is Risen, indeed!**

\* PRAYER [spoken in unison]

**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**

\* KYRIE    *Pastor: Lord have mercy,*      **Congregation: Lord have Mercy,**  
            *Pastor: Christ have mercy,*      **Congregation: Christ have Mercy,**  
            *Pastor: Lord have Mercy,*      **Congregation: Lord have Mercy.**

- \* HYMN OF PRAISE - Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-jah (3 times)  
Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah  
(repeat as processing until called to order inside)

## PRELUDE

- \* APOSTOLIC GREETING  
*P Alleluia! Christ is risen!*  
**C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
*P 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 "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done" p. 7 in bulletin  
(on arrival in the church)
- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY [spoken in unison]  
*P Let us pray.....*  
**C 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. Amen**

## THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

**<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

**<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

**<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

**<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.**

**<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

**<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."**

**<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

**<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

**<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**All – This is the day that the LORD has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

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

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

<sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

\* VERSE (reprise) – Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-jah (3 times)  
Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah  
(repeat the whole verse one time)

\* GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>So 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." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

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

SERMON

Pastor Gay Irwin

\* HYMN "Thine Is the Glory" p. 8 in bulletin

\* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 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.**

**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**

\* SHARING OF THE PEACE

*P The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**C And also with you.**

(The congregation is invited to greet each other with the peace we each receive from God).

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

ANTHEM

\* SUNG OFFERTORY "Doxology"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'n-ly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\* THE PRAYERS

*P Gathered around Christ crucified and risen, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.*

**A brief silence.**

*P Awaken the church, that it may boldly proclaim the new creation we celebrate on this resurrection day. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Raise up political and civic leaders who will bring forth a springtime of care for the poor and those most vulnerable among us. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Deepen our reverence for the earth and all its creatures, that we may marvel at your works and rejoice at each new day. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Draw to your heart all those weighed down by grief, illness, or anxiety; those absent or forgotten; and those homebound or hospitalized; that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Be known to us as we eat and drink at your table, that we may live as the risen body of Christ in the world. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

**Here other intercessions may be offered.**

*P We give thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed the resurrection through their words, music, and art. May your creative Spirit renew our lives with your beauty and grace. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C Amen**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

**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**

\* CLOSING HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

p. 9 in bulletin

\* DISMISSAL

*P Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.*

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

**WE WELCOME OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS** from the other churches of the community and appreciate the opportunity that is ours as fellow Christians to worship together. Messiah is glad to have you as our guests this morning and we pray that the service will be a rich blessing to you.

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** We invite everyone (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

**WE THANK ALL WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE THIS MORNING** – Special thanks to Pastor Gay Irwin who is the preacher for this service. We pray God's blessing on her as she preaches the Word this morning.

**THE OFFERING PLATES** are located in the rear. The offering will be given to the Mifflin/Mifflintown Area Ministerium for its continued ministry to our community.

**RESTROOMS AND NURSERY ARE LOCATED** through the door at the rear of the nave. No nursery attendant is provided, but parents are welcome to take their children there and listen to the service (the control knob for the PA system is beside the hallway door).