

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213

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

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist

COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE March 27, 2016 – 6:15 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)

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] 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.

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: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" L. Smith

* 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 "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"
(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: Matthew 20:17-19

¹⁷While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, ¹⁸"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; ¹⁹then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.⁸

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (read responsively)

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

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

²**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

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

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD ¹ is exalted! The right hand of the ¹ LORD acts valiantly!"

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

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

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

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

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

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

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

²⁴This 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

¹⁹If for 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 first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler 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.

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

SERMON: "What is the truth...about Hope?"

Pastor Dan Kerlin

(John 20:1-18)

¹Early 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

[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’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

* THE PRAYERS

P On this most holy day, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give.

A brief silence.

P O God of life, pour the life of your Son’s resurrection into the churches. Make visible the unity we have in you. Show to each denomination the strengths of the others. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Give to the lands and seas the life of your continuing creation. Water the flowers of springtime, and nurture the growing crops. Bless all who protect your plants and animals. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant to all nations your life of peace. Keep us from war. Lead us into justice. Turn enemies into friends. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Visit the needy with your compassionate life. Feed the hungry. Nurse the sick. Protect the weak. Comfort the sorrowful. Attend the dying. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Raise up this assembly with the life of your Spirit. Reveal in our community the signs of Christ’s resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O God of life, we praise you for the faithful who have met you in death. Bring us all through death into the life of your resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P O God, we praise your life. We bless your mercy. We honor your power. Transform all that is dying with the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 “Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

* DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE:

“A Song Of Triumph”

D. Paxton

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 Dan Kerlin who is the preacher for this service. We pray God’s blessing on him as he 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).

