

# UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven ~ Traditionally Grounded ~ Congregationally Focused

“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...” (1 Peter 3:15)

## The Case for Easter

March 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. and March 16, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

### PRELUDE

### SALUTATION & PRAYER

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 Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common prayers to you. You have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. Answer, O Lord, our desires and petitions as you determine best for us—granting us, in this world, the knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, everlasting life in you. (Based on a Prayer of St. Chrysostom)

C **Amen**

### PSALMODY Psalm 141:1-4a, 8 ESV

P O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!

C **Give ear to my voice when I call to you!**

P Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!**

P Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth;

C **keep watch over the door of my lips!**

P Do not let my heart incline to any evil,

C **to busy myself with wicked deeds**

P But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord.

C **in you I see refuge; leave me not defenseless!**

### APOSTLES' CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

P Let us join together in confessing our faith with the saints who have gone before us, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C **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 was 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**

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

\*\*Or, the holy Christian Church,

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-20

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he<sup>[a]</sup> lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” <sup>11</sup> While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. <sup>12</sup> And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers <sup>13</sup> and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’” <sup>14</sup> And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup> So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. <sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[b]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### TEACHING MOMENT

## The Case for the Tomb

Pastor Heidi Punt

### HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

2 How art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;  
how does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn!  
Thy grief and bitter passion, were all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

### THE PRAYERS (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

### LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

P Hear our petitions, O Lord, as we entrust our lives into your care this night.

C **We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

P May the Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C **Amen**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

Evening Prayer—Vespers Service  
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