

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

April 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. and April 6, 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.

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: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

TEACHING MOMENT Now What? Defense for the Hope Pastor Heidi Punt

HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

1 O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

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.

3 What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

4 Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for he who dies believing dies safely in thy love.

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

NOTES

Evening Prayer—Vespers Service
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**Or, He descended to the dead.*

***Or, the holy Christian Church,*

NICENE CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Or, We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.*

ATHANASIAN CREED

Quicumque Vult

the Son was neither made nor created,
but was alone begotten of the Father;
the Spirit was neither made nor created,
but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.
Thus there is one Father, not three fathers;
one Son, not three sons;
one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.

And in this Trinity, no one is before or after,
greater or less than the other;
but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal;
and so we must worship the Trinity in unity
and the one God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.
It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe
that our Lord Jesus became flesh.

For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and man.

He is God, begotten before all worlds
from the being of the Father,
and he is man, born in the world
from the being of his mother--
existing fully as God,
and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;
equal to the Father in divinity,
subordinate to the Father in humanity.

Although he is God and man,
he is not divided,
but is one Christ.
He is united because God
has taken humanity into himself;
he does not transform deity into humanity.

He is completely one in the unity of his person,
without confusing his natures.
For as the rational soul and body are one person,
so the one Christ is God and man.

He suffered death for our salvation.
He descended into hell
and rose again from the dead.
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.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily
to give an account of their own deeds.
Those who have done good will enter eternal life,
those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith.
One cannot be saved
without believing this firmly and faithfully.

Whoever wants to be saved
should above all cling to the catholic faith.
Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable
will doubtless perish eternally.
Now this is the catholic faith:

We worship one God in trinity
and the Trinity in unity,
neither confusing the persons
nor dividing the divine being.

For the Father is one person,
the Son is another,
and the Spirit is still another.
But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
is one, equal in glory,
coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is,
the Son is,
and so is the Holy Spirit.

Uncreated is the Father;
uncreated is the Son;
uncreated is the Spirit.

The Father is infinite;
the Son is infinite;
the Holy Spirit is infinite.

Eternal is the Father;
eternal is the Son;
eternal is the Spirit:

And yet there are not three eternal beings,
but one who is eternal;
as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings,
but one who is uncreated and unlimited.

Almighty is the Father;
almighty is the Son;
almighty is the Spirit:

And yet there are not three almighty beings,
but one who is almighty.

Thus the Father is God;
the Son is God;
the Holy Spirit is God:

And yet there are not three gods,
but one God.

Thus the Father is Lord;
the Son is Lord;
the Holy Spirit is Lord:

And yet there are not three lords,
but one Lord.

As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge
each distinct person as God and Lord,
so catholic religion forbids us
to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made
nor created nor begotten;