

SERMON

"Living Easter"

Pastor Kent Stillson

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

ELW #619 (v 1-4)

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your Mercy All) **Hear our Prayer**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

"Come to the Table"

ELW #481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION (at the rail)

✠ Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

✠ Special Music: "Because He Lives" & "Here I Am Lord"
- Ali Hefner & Kari Vosburg

✠ Blessing & Benediction

SENDING HYMN

"Thine Is The Glory"

ELW #376 (v 1&2)

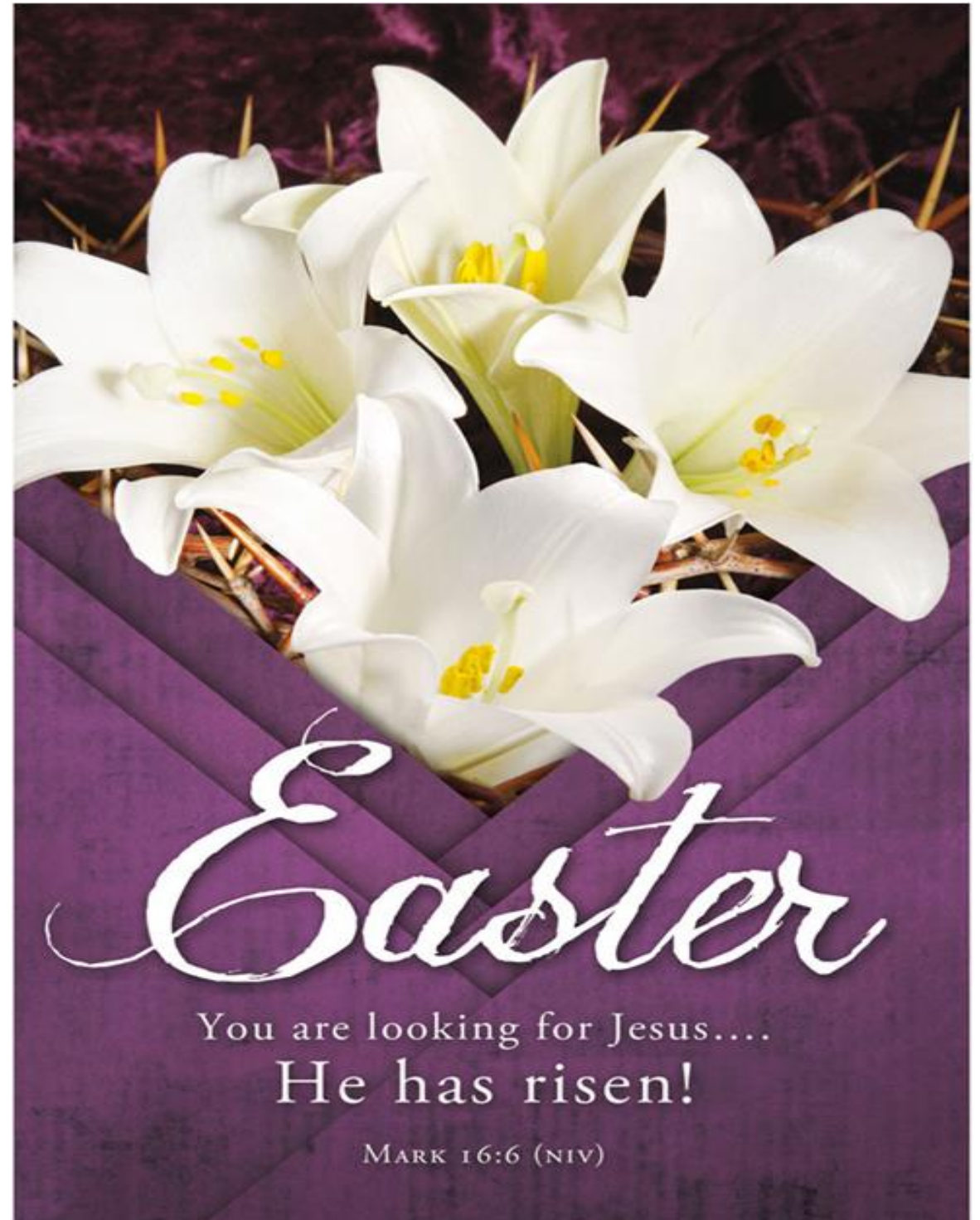
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

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*

THE DISMISSAL L) Go in the peace. Share the Good News. All) **Thanks be to God!**



Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day – March 31st, 2024

Guest Pastor: Kent Stillson Organist: Paul Mesner & Kari Vosburg

PRELUDE

EASTER GREETING

Leader: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

ELW #365

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

SHARING THE PEACE L) Jesus has Risen. All) **He has risen indeed.**

EASTER LITANY:

L: The cross which stood filled with a broken body filled with death ...

C: Now stands empty, filled with the promise of life. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

L: The altar stripped bare of its furnishings as a sign of how Jesus was abandoned and betrayed by his followers ...

C: Today the altar is dressed in white. Resting on it is the bread of life and the blood of forgiveness. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

L: In past weeks, the mournful music of sorrow filled our ears. The songs of death came forth from our lips.

C: The Easter song is life and beauty and happiness. We sing with joy. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

L: Christ being raised from the dead will die no more.

C: Death has no more dominion over Him. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

L: The suffering, the death, the resurrection are for us;

C: Death no longer has dominion over me.

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

CHILDREN’S INVITATION SONG:

“Jesus Loves Me!”

ELW #595

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain*

Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW #781 v3

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

SCRIPTURE 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. L) *Word of God, Word of Life.* All) **Thanks be to God.**

EASTER GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." L) *Word of God, Word of Life.* All) **Thanks be to God.**