



***“God’s Greater Story:  
The Resurrecting Christ”***  
***Sunday, September 20 2020 9:00AM***  
***Worship Service***

**AS WE GATHER**

Today we continue our series, “God’s Greater Story”, based upon a portion of Paul’s letter to the Church at Rome. Last week we were reminded how through Baptism we are connected to Christ not only in His death but also His resurrection. In the Bible we see a glimpse of this through Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead. For Jesus is the Resurrecting Christ. From him comes all power. The power over death and the power of life. In his rule, he raises Lazarus, opening the eyes of all people to see power. The power of the resurrecting Christ.

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“Christ, the Life of All the Living”**

**LSB 420 sts. 1-4**

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heav’nly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

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*Stand*

### OPENING SENTENCES

- P** We gather today celebrating life: Life created by the Father;  
**C** **life restored by Jesus Christ, the life of all the living, who is the resurrection and the life;**  
**P** life sanctified by the living breath of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.  
**C** **Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**
- P** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.  
**C** **Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”**
- P** We come before our Lord, confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection*

- P** The apostle Paul reminds us that if it had not been for the Law, we would not have known sin.  
**C** **We confess, O Lord, that we have not kept Your Law perfectly. We have sinned against You by what we have done and left undone, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P** Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

The Lord will open the graves and put His Spirit within His people, and they shall live. God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and through His death brought life and immortality to light. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### HYMN

**“Christ, the Life of All the Living”**

**LSB 420 sts. 5-7**

- 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,

Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, in whom is life now and forever, through Your Son's suffering and death You have given us victory over all we ever need fear in sin, eternal death, and the power of the devil. Breathe into our bones and our souls Your life-giving Word, that we rejoice in Your forgiveness and serve You and others in love and faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## READING

**John 11:17–27, 38–44**

**L** A reading from John, chapter 11.

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
 On which the Prince of Glory died,  
 My richest gain I count but loss  
 And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
 Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
 All the vain things that charm me most,  
 I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet  
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
 That were a tribute far too small;  
 Love so amazing, so divine,  
 Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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## SERMON

## “God’s Greater Story: The Resurrecting Christ”

Romans 7: 1-13

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** The resurrection to eternal life has come to the world in Christ Jesus. Let us pray for the deliverance of all who belong to Christ by faith and for all for whom He died and rose again.
- O God, as You created everything out of nothing by Your mighty Word, so You have brought resurrection and eternal life to light by the mighty command of Your Son, Jesus, who went through death and emerged victorious over death. Help us to learn from Ezekiel’s vision the death that comes when we lose faith and the life we gain through Your Spirit. Receive our praise and thanks for Your gift of eternal life. Help us to live as Your resurrection people, bringing the might of Your Word to all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us continue to recognize our sin, our need for repentance, and our dependence on our Savior. Help us learn from Paul’s Letter to the Romans to continually put to death those things of the flesh that lead us astray, that we be fed and led by Your life-giving Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We lift up those who mourn and carry grief and sorrow in the loss of loved ones. Help us learn from our Savior at Lazarus’s tomb, that death is not the last word of this life, that we rejoice in Your promises made, fulfilled, and yet to come of the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Enable and equip us to be heralds of the hope that is ours and witness to Christ and the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Inspire and bless all called to preach Your Word and administer Your Holy Sacraments with resurrection power, that they do not grow weary but grow in compassion and perseverance. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** For the sake of Your Word, by which You cause repentance and faith to issue from human hearts, guide the leaders of nations and communities in our world to pursue ways of peace and tranquility among people, that Your Word be preached for the salvation of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Comfort and heal all those who are sick or infirm, disabled, or troubled, [*especially . . .*]. Breathe Your life-giving Spirit into all in need, that hope, comfort, and peace in You may be theirs. Remind us that our ultimate healing is in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **PREFACE**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Holy Lord, mighty God, when those whom You had made for Your glory rejected Your Word and will and sought their own way, You did not abandon them to the death they freely chose. You established hope for the day when Your mercy would take flesh through the Virgin Mary and, by His obedient life and life-giving death, He would redeem and restore Your people to You. Giving thanks for all that Christ has accomplished and trusting in His Word and promise, we come in His name to His own altar to receive His body and blood in this bread and wine.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

### “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray  
That we may feast on You today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine  
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,  
Your body broken and Your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n,  
The certain joys of heirs of heav’n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold  
To seize the gift of love retold;  
All that You are we here receive,  
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,  
Rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim Your love until You come  
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:  
O keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be Your welcomed guest  
In heaven’s high and holy feast.

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## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

### “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

LSB 480

- 1 He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.
- 2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

△ 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:  
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have breathed Your Spirit into us through Your Word and have given us forgiveness and new life through the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. As you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come, grant that His victory over death strengthen us in faith and trust, giving hope and assurance of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### BENEDICTION

**P** We depart today and continue each day celebrating life:

**C** **life created by the Father;**

**P** life restored by Jesus Christ, the life of all the living, who is the resurrection and the life;

**C** **life sanctified by the living breath of the Holy Spirit.**

**P** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN

#### “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

LSB 466 st. 5

5 Christ has arisen; He sets us free;  
Alleluia, to Him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.  
Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;  
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

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