Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church 419 Bossardsville Road Stroudsburg, PA

March 31, 2024 Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM



First Reading: Creation Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Pastor: A reading from Genesis. Creation

Pastor: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,

Men: while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said,

Women: Let there be light;

Men: and there was light. And God saw that the light was

All: good

Women: and God separated the light from the darkness.

Men: God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.

Women: And there was evening

Men: and there was morning,

Women: the first day.

Pastor: And God said, Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters. So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so, God called the dome

All: Sky.

Men: And there was evening

Women: and there was morning,

Men: the second day.

Pastor: And God said, Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. And it was so.

Women: God called the dry land

All: Earth,

Men: and the waters that were gathered together God called

All: Seas.

Women: And God saw that it was

All: good.

Pastor: Then God said, Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.

All: And it was so.

Pastor: The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was

All: good.

Men: And there was evening

Women: and there was morning,

Men: the third day.

Pastor: And God said, Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be signs for seasons and for days and years, and let there be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.

All: And it was so.

Pastor: God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the

All: stars.

Pastor: God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was

All: good.

Women: And there was evening

Men: and there was morning,

All: the fourth day.

Pastor: And God said, Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was

All: good.

Women: God blessed them, saying,

Pastor: Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.

Men: And there was evening

Women: and there was morning,

All: the fifth day.

Pastor: And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.

All: And it was so.

Pastor: God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was

All: good.

Pastor: Then God said, Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Women: So God created humankind in God's image,

Men: in the image of God, God created them; male and female

Pastor: God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

> See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.

All: And it was so.

Pastor: God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was

All: very good.

Women: And there was evening

Men: and there was morning,

All: the sixth day.

Pastor: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done.

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

All: The word of the Lord.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

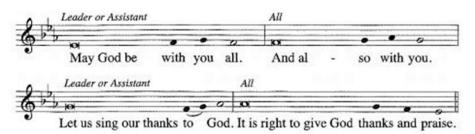
As the fire is kindled; the paschal candle is lit.

Minister: Let us pray. O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Minister: The Light of Christ. All: Thanks be to God.

Thanksgiving -



Leader Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.



Second Reading: Flood Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Reader 1: A reading from Genesis. the Lord said to Noah,

God: Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.

All: And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. *A brief pause.*

- Reader 2: In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.
- Reader 1: On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.
- Reader 2: The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. *A brief pause.*
- Reader 1: At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.
- Reader 2: Then Noah sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him.

- Reader 1: Noah waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore.

 A brief pause.
- Reader 2: In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.
- Reader 1: In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah,
- God: Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.
- Reader 2: So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him.
- God: As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.

A brief pause.

This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

All: The word of the Lord.

Third Reading: Testing of Abraham Genesis 22: 1-18

Reader: A reading from Genesis.....

God: Abraham! Women: Here I am.

God: Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.

Reader: So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men,

Women: Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.

Reader: Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham,

Men: Father!

Women: Here I am, my son.

Men: The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Women: God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.

Reader: So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said.

All: Abraham, Abraham!

Women: Here I am.

God: Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.

Reader: Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place

All: "The Lord will provide";

Reader: as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." *A brief pause*.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said,

God: By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.

Here I Am, Lord



Fourth Reading: Salvation offered to all Isaiah 55:1-11

Reader: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

All: Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Reader: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

All: Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Reader: Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

All: See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Reader: See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

All: Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

Reader: Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

All: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

Reader: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

All: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

Reader: So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

All: For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

5th Reading - Valley Of The Dry Bones Ezekiel 37:1-14

Reader 1: A reading from Ezekiel. . . . Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

Men: Mortal, can these bones live?

Women: O Lord God, you know.

Reader 2: Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.

- Reader 1: So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, . . . and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- Reader 2: Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God:
- Reader 1 and Reader 2: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live!
- Reader 1: And the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- Reader 2: Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy and say to them:
- Reader 1 and Reader 2: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.

Reader 1: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sixth Reading – The Gathering of God's People Zephaniah 3:14-20

All: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

Reader: The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

All: The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

Reader: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

All: The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

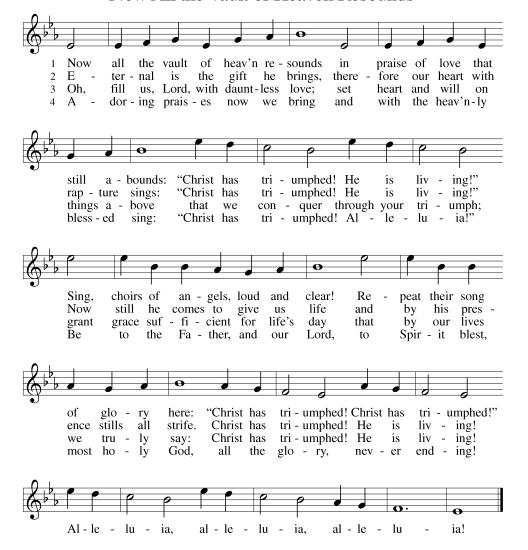
Reader: As on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

All: I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

Reader: At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



Seventh Reading John 20:1-18

Readers 1 and 2: The Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

- Reader 1: Early 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.
- Reader 2: So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
- Women: They have taken the Lord out of the tomb! They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.
- Reader 1: Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
- Reader 2: He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.
- Reader 1: Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

 He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.
- Reader 2: Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.
- Reader 1: Then the disciples returned to their homes.

A brief pause.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.

Reader 2: She saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

Men: Woman, why are you weeping?

Women: They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.

Reader 1: When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Men: Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for? Reader 2: Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

Women: Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.

Men: Mary!

Women: Rabbouni!

All: Which means "Teacher" in Hebrew.

Reader 1: Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

Reader 2: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, Women: I have seen the Lord! I have seen the Lord.

Reader 1: And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Readers 1 and 2: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Prayers

Assisting Minister: Washed and renewed in the mercy of God that endures forever, we pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

You bring us from death to life with Christ. Enliven all the baptized so that your church may be a sign of resurrection in the world. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

At creation you brought forth order and life. Bring life anew to all creation: sky, earth, and seas; sun, moon, and stars; plants and animals. Teach us to treasure and defend what you have declared to be good. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Your power extends to the depths of the grave. Bring hope and peace to all who are in the depths of sorrow or the fires of suffering. Heal all who are sick and comfort the grieving especially those we raise to you now Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

You drew the amazed, the terrified, and the weeping to the empty tomb. Gather us with your people of all times and places to wonder at your power and rejoice in your love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

To you, Living God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one with whom we have been raised to new life, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

All: Amen.

PEACE

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The Peace is shared with one another by saying – 'peace be with you' or something similar.

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you. Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Minister: We share in the prayer Jesus taught us.

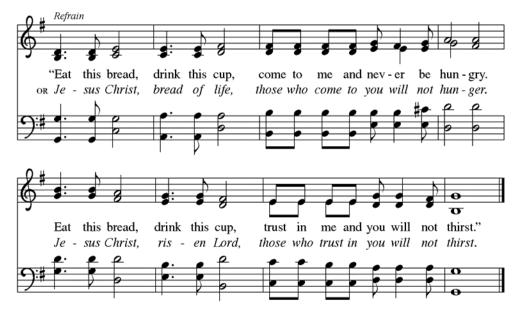
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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, for ever and ever. Amen

Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated in order that we might commune together.



COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Heavenly Father, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

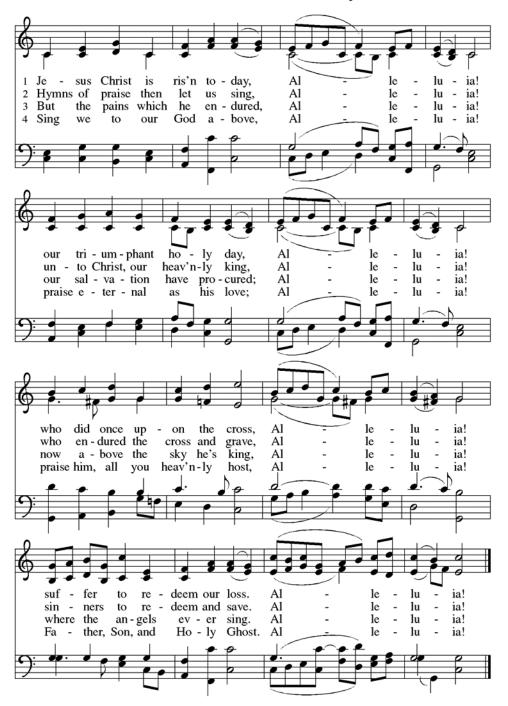
All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



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Worship Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb

Keyboard: Beth McElroy

Lay Assistant: Amanda Balas

Readers: Deb Booth, Amanda Balas, Brain Powers