

BULLETIN TEMPLATE: Minnesota Valley Church
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
Date: Sunday, April 31, 2024
Church Year Date: Resurrection Sunday

Thank you, dear musicians, for your dedication to leading us in the worship of our great Savior. Pastor Tom

Prelude: Jan Ellingson

Mark 16:1-3 *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"*

Hymn #111 "Low in the Grave He Lay"

Mark 16:4-6 *But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.*

Hymn #104 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" with Trumpets

PASTOR: "Christ is Risen"

CONGREGATION: "He is Risen Indeed!"

Children's Songs

Unison Reading: ***Job 19:25-27*** *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes-I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

Hymn #545 "Because He Lives"

Reader: Bob Hawksford

Epistle Lesson: *1 Corinthians 15:50-58* *I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

Apostles' Creed: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen*

GLORIA PATRI: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is not, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Greeting, Announcements, Prayer

Hymn #98 “Thine is the Glory”

MESSAGE: “THE WAR IS OVER, JESUS IS VICTORIOUS” 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Pastor Tom Olson, minnesotavalleychurch.org *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

VE DAY: One of my favorite World War 2 photos is my dad and his buddies smiling and walking down the street in Paris. The battle of the Bulge was over. 35,000 men died. The horrifying concentration camps were liberated. The images would give them nightmares the rest of their lives. But the war was over. They were smiling. New recruits would come in to replace them and deal with the aftermath. The men had a few free days in Paris to rest, relax and enjoy themselves.

VICTORIOUS: The resurrected Christ is out of the tomb! The great battle is over. Jesus is victorious. Now is the time to get dressed for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Now is the time to get ready to “head to Paris” and enjoy the victory celebrations. Sure, there is still the aftermath of battle to deal with. Enemy combatants, the devil and demons, are still running at large and causing trouble. But they are a defeated foe and we need to treat them as defeated foes. The name of Jesus stops them dead in their tracks, as Luther said, “The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure. For lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell Him.” That word is Jesus, Jesus is Lord. **THE WAR IS OVER, JESUS IS VICTORIOUS.**

I. NEW CLOTHING

BANQUET: The wedding banquet is soon to begin when Jesus returns. We need to have on the appropriate wedding garment.

That will be our resurrection bodies, clothed in robes of Christ’s righteousness. **The cemetery is merely a waiting room for people in line to get their new clothes.**

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

OLDEST: Most of the houses in our neighborhood have been sold from the folks who built them in the 1980’s and now are occupied by younger families. Our street is filled with children. As the original owners have died or moved, we quickly have become some of the oldest people in our neighborhood. I thought for certain that I would one of the first die and go to heaven because of my age.

CANCER: But my 44-year-old neighbor is filled with cancer. A few weeks ago, he was a strong, active family man, snowmobiler, water skier and plumber. Now he is weak, sleeps most of the day and he may not make it much longer. But that is only part of the story. After years of backsliding and rough living, he came over our place one day and joyfully announced that he had re-dedicated his life to Christ. Now he jumped ahead of me in line to enter heaven’s glory. It is sad for our community, but from heaven’s perspective it is a promotion that we all can envy. ***Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.”***

EYEBLINK: One of these days the trumpet will sound and in the blink of an eye God’s redeemed children will get a new body and a new set of clothing as we rise up in the air to meet Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose

again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words."

We get NEW CLOTHING.

II. A NEW PERSPECTIVE

I Corinthians 15:54-56 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

BUCKET LIST: In light of the resurrection, we have a NEW PERSPECTIVE. Everything is eternal. There is no more need of a "bucket list," the things you want to do before you "kick the bucket." We will have all eternity to live, explore, get to know God in person, enjoy the awesome adventures ahead of us. Right now, many of us are in a rush to do things before we die. When we enter eternity we will never again have to rush to anything. C.S. Lewis puts it this way, "each day is better than the last one." We will never again experience any kind of pain.

STING: We are told here that Christ's resurrection and our resurrection is "*death being swallowed up in victory.*" Death is our last enemy. The moment after we die, we enter eternal life. This is the victory that is given to all who have faith in Jesus.

Death comes to us because of our sin. It is called "*the sting of death.*"

LAW: The "*power of sin is the law.*" I saw a pastor having a discussion with a Muslim on a college campus. The Muslims are not used to listening to preachers because in their country of origin you would be put to death for witnessing for Jesus in public. They get really angry at these street preachers. The Muslim lady said she was a good person and could save herself. She was sure that God would take her to heaven on the basis of her own good deeds. The preacher asked her some questions from the Ten Commandments. He asked her if she ever disobeyed her parents, she had. ...if she ever lied, she had. ...if she ever had been angry at someone, she had. He asked her how she could go to a perfect heaven having done those sins. She could not answer. The power of sin is the law. The law showed her the need of a Redeemer.

VICTORY: When my dad was fighting in the battle of the bulge, he did not know who would win the war, he did not know if he would live another day. But after VICTORY IN EUROPE Day, he had a whole new perspective on what was ahead for everyone. Our NEW PERSPECTIVE will be eternal and our standing will be REDEEMED by Christ.

III. A NEW PURPOSE

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

MEANING: The resurrection gives meaning to our lives. We work on a job in order to bring our fellow workers to Christ. We raise children so they can use their gifts to glorify God. We live in our neighborhoods as Ambassadors for Christ. We even go through pain and suffering for the sake of witnessing grace to those we know. The victorious followers of Jesus live lives that count for all eternity.

HOPLESSNESS: I feel sad for people who don't believe in the risen Savior. Many say that life is meaningless. Depression is at epidemic proportions today along with related suicide. Without the resurrection it is all so meaningless. Many people think you just die and that is it, just utter darkness and nothingness. So consequently, that is how they feel about life as well.

REVIVAL: Everyday I wake up I know that God has something for me to do in His kingdom. If you feel that life is meaningless, come to Christ today for salvation and find a real purpose for living.

SAUL: Saul of Tarsus was an angry and bitter man who decided to dedicate himself to throwing Christians into prison and killing them if he could. He was a religious terrorist. But God got ahold of him on the road to Damascus and transformed His life. He became Paul the Apostle and dedicated the rest of his life to sharing the gospel in the Spirit of Love. This once murderer wrote in *I Corinthians 13*: ***"If I have not love, I am nothing, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."*** Meeting Jesus turned his life around completely. It gave his life meaning and purpose and joy. This is the power of the Resurrection of Christ.

CAMP: When I was a teen, I was searching for answers. I didn't have peace in my soul. Someone invited me to a youth retreat at a place called "Living Waters Bible Camp." We memorized a hymn at that event that has been a positive motivation in my life. I would like to close by quoting it for you: *I sought a flag to follow, a cause for which to stand, I sought a valiant leader, Who could my love command; I sought a stirring challenge, Some noble work to try, To give my life fulfillment, my dreams to satisfy. I found them all in Jesus, the Life, the Truth, the Way; Beneath His flag I'll take my stand and follow Him today! CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! "Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus." Amen*

Lord's Prayer
Benediction

Hymn #176 (Hymnal only...no PowerPoint) "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Postlude: Jan Ellingson