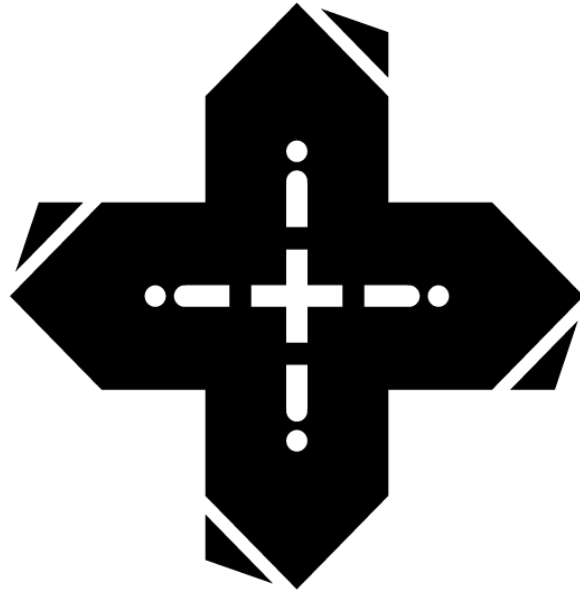


Connecting Christ. Creating Community.



HUNTERSVILLE
Lutheran Church

SUNDAYS OF EASTER
04.18.21



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Seven Oaks 19725 Oak St. Cornelius, NC

Worship @ 9:30am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the hallway at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

Service Participants

Rev Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

Service Notes

~Sundays of Easter~

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the beating heart of the gospel and the linchpin of your faith. The Apostle Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20-22). Jesus' resurrection is what gives your faith meaning, what brings comfort amid sorrows, and what offers you hope for the life to come.

Easter is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious savior. For the early Christians, and for us, Easter is not merely one day. It is a whole season that also includes the celebration of Jesus' ascension. As one author put it, "Easter is not only the focal point of our faith (the intellectual side), but this is really when the church parties (the emotional side)." The season of Easter, known as "The Great Fifty Days," was the first liturgical season of the church year to be celebrated in the first three centuries of the early church. For fifty days, the church rightfully continues the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and what it means.

Throughout the Season of Easter, each Sunday has a special emphasis. Several Sundays recount Jesus' miraculous and mysterious post-Easter appearances. In ancient times, the Second Sunday of Easter was known as White Sunday. The men, women, and children who were baptized at the Easter Vigil wore white robes as a sign of their baptismal renewal. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, recalls the manifold references in John's Gospel to Jesus being our Good Shepherd. The final Sunday in the Season of Easter is reserved for the celebration of the Ascension and also sets the scene for the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

As we journey together through The Great Fifty Days, God grant us hearts of joy as we continue to celebrate the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Amen!

About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is a church that is waiting for you. We are supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission is to show you to the authentic Jesus, build you up in his Word, and connect you to your community and neighbors in ways you have never been able to before. For more information, check out www.huntersvillelc.com.



ORDER OF SERVICE

From beginning to end, the Gospel—the good news of what Jesus did for sinners—is the central focus in our worship. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. This is because the Gospel is the very thing that God uses to transform hearts and eternities, creating saving faith in the heart of the believer. God bless our worship this morning.

Opening Hymn | *His Battle Ended There* |



1 His bat - tle end - ed there, death was o - ver - come.
2 Dread pow'rs of death and sin had him in their hold.
3 Dead in the grave he lay, mourned by ev - 'ry friend.
4 He burst the chains of sin, o - pened death's dark jail.



Je - sus, a - live a - gain, wore the vic - tor's crown.
When Je - sus rose a - gain all their plans were foiled.
Those dark and fear - ful days then did reach their end.
God filled him with new life, life that could not fail.



Clear - ly sin had failed; Good - ness had pre - vailed.
Je - sus lived a - gain, Tri - umphed o - ver sin.
God raised him to life, Vic - tor in the strife.
Right be - fore their eyes Je - sus did a - rise.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Invocation

L In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.¹

C Amen.

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed.

Confession of Sins

L Brothers and sisters, if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

L Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

C **Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his holy life and innocent death.
Trusting in him, I pray:
God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

L Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says to you:

Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

¹ *The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.*

L In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise | *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing, vv4, 5* |

- 4. Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**
- 5. Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia**

Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray:

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen



THE WORD

During the Sundays of Easter, the first reading is going to look a little different. Instead of being a selection from the Old Testament, the first reading is a selection from the book of Acts. This is to show how the Resurrection ultimately gave birth to the Christian Church and how God used the apostles to spread the message of the empty tomb.

Children's Message

First Reading | Acts 3:11-17 |

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118

- The LORD is my strength and my song;
- He has become my salvation.**
- The LORD's right hand is lifted high;
- The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!**
- I will not die but live,
- And will proclaim what the LORD has done.**
- I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
- You have become my salvation.**
- The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
- The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- This is the day the LORD has made;
- Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Second Reading | *1 John 1:5-2:2* |

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

^{2:1} My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

□ The Gospel according to Luke, chapter twenty-four.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ.



Hymn of the Day | *God Has Spoken by His Prophets* |



1 God has spo - ken by his proph-ets, Spo - ken his un -
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er -
3 God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, Speak - ing to the



chang - ing Word, Each from age to age pro - claim - ing
last - ing Son, Bright-ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry,
hearts of all, In the age - less Word ex - pound - ing



God the one, the right-eous Lord. In the world's de - spair and
With the Fa - ther ev - er one, Spo - ken by the Word in -
His own mes-sage for us all. Through the rise and fall of



tur - moil One firm an - chor holds us fast: God is
car - nate, God from God, be - fore time was, Light from
na - tions One sure faith is stand - ing fast. God a -



king, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last.
Light, to earth de-scend - ing— He re - veals our God to us.
bides, his Word un-chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

Sermon | *Slow to Believe?* |

Luke 24:13-25

Personal Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed* |

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will 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.

THANKSGIVING

Offering | The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

Take Action Cards | In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Blessing

- L** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Numbers 6:24

Song of Departure | *When Peace Like A River* |

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, though has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

2. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious though—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain.

3. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain.

Announcements

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning, we pray your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

Want to Learn More? | Aside from worship, one of the best way to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor (pastor@huntersvillelc.com).

Bible Study Break | For the rest of April, we will be taking a break from Sunday morning Bible Study. Toward the end of April, there will be communication sent to the congregation about what is going going to happen in the coming months.

Congregational Update Meeting | Two weeks from today, Sunday, May 2nd, we will have a short meeting to update the congregation on how things are going at HLC. This meeting will include an update on our search for a permanent home. This meeting will take place after worship.