FIRST READING: ACTS 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, [35]but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. [36]You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. [37]That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: [38]how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. [39]We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; [40]but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, [41]not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. [42]He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. [43]All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

***Or* JEREMIAH 31:1-6 [not printed here]**

PSALM: PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

The Psalm is printed on pp. 272–273 of LBW.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2]Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, [3]for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4]When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

***Or* ACTS 10:34–43 [see First Reading]**

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1-18

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. [2]So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." [3]Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. [4]The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. [5]He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. [6]Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, [7]and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. [8]Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; [9]for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. [10]Then the disciples returned to their homes.

[11]But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she

Continued

SEEING THE RISEN LORD

On this Easter Sunday the people of God marvel at their baptismal rebirth from sin and despair into the new life of the resurrection. Our hearts explode with holy joy, for we are able to see all of life with the eyes of faith. As spring breaks forth all around us, we celebrate a world made new by the victorious resurrection of Christ.

Mary Magdalene's life was changed forever after she recognized the risen Christ in the garden. Her tears of sadness were transformed to tears of joy. She hurried to tell the disciples: "I have seen the Lord." There was a reason to hope and believe. Death did not have the final word.

We, too, see the Lord. The risen Christ appears to us this and every Lord's day in the proclamation of the word and in the feast of victory. With our eyes we see the marks of our crucified and risen Lord in the suffering and hope of our sisters and brothers in the faith. In acts of kindness, justice, and mercy, we witness signs in our own day that the Lord is risen indeed.

With hearts full of gratefulness and holy joy, we treasure the gifts of God all around us, signs of the resurrection. Having seen the risen Lord, God's people are called to make known the mighty acts and wonders of God. Like Mary Magdalene, we now go tell others of a gracious God who brings us out of death into life!

Gospel, continued

bent over to look into the tomb; [12]and 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. [13]They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." [14]When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. [15]Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." [16]Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). [17]Jesus said to her, "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.' " [18]Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

***Or* MATTHEW 28:1-10 [not printed here]**

Next Sunday's readings: **Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31**

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I have seen the Lord!

John 20:18

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD — APRIL 7, 1996

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sarasota, Florida
11:15 A.M.

April 7, 1996 EASTER SUNDAY

Organ Prelude Christine Allen, Organist
Anthem "The Resurrection Suite" Celebration Choir
Processional Hymn No. 151
"Jesus Christ is Ris'n Today Choir and Congregation
Pg. 77 Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness
Pg. 78 Greeting
Pg. 78 Kyrie
Pg. 81 "This is the Feast"
Insert: Prayer of the Day
Announcements

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Anthem "Jesus is Risen" Celebration Choir
First Lesson: Acts 10: 34-43
Insert: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 (read responsively from insert)
New Testament Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4
Pg. 83 "Alleluia"
Gospel: John 20: 1-18
Sermon: **"What is Easter?"** Pastor Carmichael
No. 121 "Thine is the Glory"
Pg. 8 Nicene Creed
Pg. 85 Prayers and sharing of the Peace

OFFERTORY RITE

The Offering
"Run Mary, Run" Celebration Choir

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Pg. 88 Great Thanksgiving
Pg. 89 Prayer of Thanksgiving
Pg. 91 The Lord's Prayer
The Communion (Ushers will direct you to the altar rail. Please return to your seat by the side aisle)
Pg. 92 Post Communion Prayer & Canticle
Pg. 144 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"
Pg. 92 The Benediction
The Choral Benediction Celebration Choir
Organ Postlude

WELCOME We ask all worshipers to please complete the attendance form and place it **unfolded** in the offering plate. A special welcome to our visitors today.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Maria Haacke in memory of husband, Curt; by Dale & Marie Burns in honor of Jesse King and by Marion & Bob Kegg.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE when friends and family are hospitalized.

LECTOR: Sylvia Grossfield
ALTER GUILD: Beverly Duncan and Ilene Sokol
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER: Scott Lee and Rudy Lurz
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Becky Freed and Annette Breazeale

RUMMAGE SALE: A.A.L. Branch 9764, and Holy Cross will host a sale to benefit local church ministries. The site will be "Shepherd's Fold, " and the date will be Sat., April 13.
GOING NORTH and want your Church mail? Make sure we have your Northern Address.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK!

CRAFTERS will meet Mondays at 9:30 a.m. New members are gladly welcome.

NO Christ Connection at 9, 10, or 11 Easter Sunday. From 9:30 - 10:00 there **WILL BE** an Easter Celebration with the puppeteers. Refreshments for all.

CALENDAR

TODAY -
6:00 A.M. Sunrise
7:00 A.M. Jazz (Dixieland Style)
8:30 A.M. Celebration Worship
10:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship
11:15 A.M. Traditional Worship
MONDAY - 9:30 A.M. Crafters
Office Closed
TUESDAY 10:00 A.M. Bible Study
WEDNESDAY
5:30 P.M. Youth Choir
7:30 P.M. Celebration Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY
10:00 A.M. Grief Support Group
10:00 A.M. Hospice
7:00 P.M. Couples Club
SATURDAY
10:00 A.M. Learning Center
4:00 P.M. Praise Choir
5:30 P.M. Holy Communion Service
SUNDAY
8:30 A.M. Celebration Worship
10:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship
11:15 A.M. Traditional Worship
1:30 p.m. Kool Klub/Little Friends

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kenneth Carmichael, Senior Pastor
Rev. Carl Thrun, Associate Pastor
Dick Lowe, Volunteer Business Manager
David Kordack, Brett Watson, Youth Ministry
Betsy Sloan, Children's Ministry Director
Pat Lucas, Dir. Pastoral Care; Joann Prozzo, Gardener
Jane Soszka, Celebration & Youth Choir Director
Christine Allen, Organist & Choir Accompanist
Dorothy Carmichael, Saturday Organist
Sherrell Bass, Gospel Choir Director;
Gerry Mead, Praise Choir Director
John Lukacs, Custodian; Leora Stewart, Sexton
Linda Bailey, Secretary