



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Easter Sunday **April 5, 2026**

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour. Amen.

We have come to the end of the chapter; the climax to the Christian story you might say. Forty days of Lent and Holy Week now in the review mirror as we arrive at the pinnacle of the church year. And this afternoon and tomorrow those things that we gave up for Lent, well they may just find their way back into our lives.

Too often, when we hear the words of Good Friday, "It is finished!" signals to us a time of completion. We see Easter as a finish line and eagerly run to it knowing once we reach it we can put our feet up for another year. Yet is this how the early Christian community viewed the resurrection of Jesus? I suspect they vision it differently; the resurrection was meant not to be an ending but only the beginning. Easter isn't over.

It was only the beginning for Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who came to the tomb that first Easter morning.

Matthew paints what is perhaps the most alarming and, quite frankly, awe-inspiring (if not downright fear-inducing!) picture of the resurrection of the four gospel accounts. First, there is the earthquake that comes as something of a response to the quake that erupted when Jesus died (27:51). Next, we find the stone has not yet been moved from the entrance of the tomb when the women arrive on scene. Rather, an angel of the Lord descends and rolls back the stone. Moreover, the angel's appearance isn't just striking -- with a face like lightning and clothing whiter than Tide could ever hope to get them -- but is actually terrifying. Then, the guards at the tomb (another feature distinct to Matthew) immediately faint in terror.

No wonder these women are afraid. And no wonder the angel therefore first speaks words of comfort and courage. "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised." Of course, it doesn't stop there, after the fear, and after the words of courage, comes a command: "Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

And they do. They come and see and then run and tell. And Matthew describes their obedience as a mixture of "fear and joy."

Isn't that a wonderful reminder that fear and joy are not opposites but, as with doubt and faith, can be experienced at the same time and might even be inseparable? Fear of what may happen to our children in a dangerous world; joy at the blessing they are to us and, we pray, they will be to the world. Fear of whether we will have a job in the year to come; joy at the colleagues that surround us. Fear about the fate of a loved one struggling with illness; joy in the gift that person has been to us. Fear about the future amid problems both national and global; joy in the present moment surrounded by those we love. Or to come a bit closer to home, fear about the future of our congregation and church; joy in our call to proclaim the gospel.

Jesus' resurrection does not spell an end to fear for those who follow him, but rather makes it possible to experience joy amid what might otherwise be crippling fear. Resurrection doesn't simply answer or end problems, but rather creates something new, and Christian faith does not remove us from the hardships, limitations, and challenges of this life.

"Do not be afraid" repeated by Jesus when he encounters the women give us insight into the very nature of our lives in this world. For there is indeed; much to fear in our mortal lives. And yet the resurrection creates the possibility for joy and hope and courage and so much more. Why, because it changes everything. In the resurrection, we have God's promise that life is stronger than death, that love is greater than hate, and mercy overcomes judgement and that all the sufferings and difficulties of this life are real and sometimes painful but they do not have the last word in our story.

Fear and joy, despair and hope, doubt and faith, these are the two sides of our lives in this world. But in the end we have heard the resurrection promise that joy, hope, and faith will ultimately prevail. This is the powerful message of the resurrection for those gathered at the tomb and us today.

My friends in Christ. It's Easter – Easter celebrations are waiting for us! Easter isn't over.

The resurrection of Jesus was not a once and done historical anomaly but rather shows us the ongoing nature and word of the God we meet in Christ. The promise of the resurrection is not simply what God has done, but what God is still doing, still leading us – us as an individual, us as the congregation of St. Timothy's, us as a nation, us as a community of believers – into new life and forgiveness and love. Easter is not over; it is on-going. And so our response to this good news is the response of those of the first Easter morning; "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!" Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Shepherd's Pie Luncheon is being hosted by the Witness Committee, Saturday, May 9th beginning at noon. Come and enjoy delicious homemade Shepherd's Pie, salad, dessert and beverage of your choice for only \$10 per person. Tickets will be available Sunday, April 19, 26 and May 3rd in Jubilee Hall following the service. Only 60 tickets are available!

Camp Lutherlyn Camper Sponsorships – St. Timothy's is sponsoring up to 5 children/youth for 1 Week each at Camp Lutherlyn this summer. You can obtain an Application Form from the church office and you can register your child online at lutherlyncamp.ca and then going to the Registration Page.

