

My thoughts for this week's Cyberservant message center around three parts.

PART ONE

"He is not here. He has risen from the dead as he said he would." Matthew 28:6

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary shared quite an experience as dawn was breaking when they arrived at Jesus' tomb where they experienced and encountered: an earthquake; an angel the appearance of which was unlike anything they had ever seen; rough and tough-looking guards who intimidated anybody with just a look shaking in their boots, frozen in place. Those things - and oh yes - let's not forget about the larger-than-life stone the angel had rolled away with the flick of a finger who said to them: "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He's not here. He has risen from the dead as he said he would."

Ok, then. How's your day been going so far - as well as all the previous days on our calendars with Good Friday and Easter Sunday scheduled to dawn in short order? To say the least - and re-state the obvious - this year's Lenten experience and our collective life experiences - have been far from "routine", customary" or "normal" owing to the onset of something none of us asked for, wanted, welcomed, imagined which would and could affect our lives in so many ways. No need to list them. We've been living - or at the very least - trying really hard to "make do" and deal as best as we are able with the reality of our lives and lifestyles being turned upside down.

Many years ago as I worked toward completing my internship year as a seminary student, the well-experienced pastor who was my supervisor shared this pearl of wisdom with me: "Remember. Something positive will be found in the midst of any negative experience."

That pastor continues to be a friend to this day - and was correct.

As the dawn of Easter Sunday draws near it is important for us to remember that God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world. Rather because God so loved the world therefore he gave his one and only Son to save the world so that all who believe in him would not perish but have eternal life. That's the good news which the two Mary's discovered and shared with the disciples - and they with others - and others after them throughout the ages to us today! A very real message of hope which should give us confidence throughout each day of our lives - that no matter what kind or nature of trial, trouble, evil or darkness which

enters into our lives by what we may do - or not do - want, expect, invite or welcome - the verdict, light and reality of God's love for us which emanated from Christ's empty tomb on that first Easter Sunday - continues to remain and be with us throughout the darkest, most trying days of our lives. That's God's message to us from Christ's empty tomb!

PART TWO

Join us in celebrating that good news this Sunday (and invite your friends) to "sign in" to <u>CTSLC's</u>
Facebook live broadcast which begins with pre-service announcements at <u>9:15 am.</u> And as an east coast friend of mine shared this week, no matter how much time we might spend preparing to broadcast our service, in spite of our best-made plans it's possible for *something* to go wrong. Remember, there's no professional camera crew and no fancy editing software (I'm told the camera adds ten pounds!) Whether it's from a cell phone on a tripod or captured by our new-to-us equipment, the videos are going to be shaky some days, the sound might not be perfect, the sermon might get cut off at the end (OH MY!) and your pastor has no intention of being nominated to receive an Oscar any time soon.

The reality is that we're "doing church" in a way we haven't done to any extent in the past and we are trying to respond to the very real trauma we are all living with at present.

As a pastor from another congregation and their "Sunday morning production crew" shared with their congregation: "We don't want to be on the other end of a camera lens from you. We want to be with you, journeying towards the cross together this week. We want to be with you on Easter Sunday, celebrating together. We miss you a lot." ---- To which I add: And so do I!

Looking forward to a Sunday in the near future when we will be able to once again worship together as a community and revel in the good news which is Easter's message, continue to be in contact with each other, pray for and with each other - until we are able to open our doors as wide as can be - and say NOW is the time to participate in quite a feast and celebration.

PART THREE

YOU ARE INVITED

Rain or shine, warm or cold, I will prepare and share "drive-by" Holy Communion in CTSLC's parking lot this (Easter) Sunday. Please see additional information about something we've never done before elsewhere in this CyberServant.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Illausky



- 1 Logon to FaceBook beginning at 9:15 am on Sunday morning.
- 2 In the Search bar, type the following:

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Allen

There may be more than one search result. If so, look for the search result with our address, 821 South Greenville Avenue, and click on that entry.

This will connect you to our page.

- 3 On our page, look for the 'Live' button in the top white tool bar and click on it. You should see a live feed of the altar area.
- 4 If you have trouble, call the church at 972-727-3191 after 9:15 am and someone will be there to help you.
- 5 Invite your friends and click on the red 'Watch Party' button on the Christ the Servant Facebook Page!

Owing to the financial realities created by the Coronavirus, the need of the continued, generous financial support of CTSLC's members continues to grow and will be very much appreciated in the days ahead.

THANK YOU to those who have mailed their weekly contribution to the church office. (821 S. Greenville Ave., Allen, Tx. 75002)

To make an on-line contribution to CTSLC by using your checking or savings account or credit/debit card please visit **christtheservant.com**; click "Donate", and follow the prompts on that secure web site. (Please contact CTSLC Financial Secretary Patty Voga <u>fin.sec@christtheservant.com</u> or (214) 766-1635 for help with any questions of a confidential basis.)

All CTSLC meetings and activities are cancelled as are those of all other groups using our building (excluding Amazing Grace Day Care).

Pastor Illausky and Ceci Gunderson are available for contact via email, text and telephone.



Christ the Servant Lutheran Church is observing current recommendations and the building is closed until further notice. See details below.



Holy Week Services:

Good Friday, April 10th

7:00 pm – broadcast live on Facebook

Easter Sunday, April 12th

9:30 am – broadcast live on Facebook

11:00 am – Communion will be available in the church parking lot. (Information below.)



Easter Sunday
See our service on Facebook!

OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

Call 972-727-3191 if you have any questions. If there is not an answer, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.



Church Council News:

Results of the election -- Kathy Fritz, Ryan Akkerman & Steve Secora were each elected to a three year term on CTSLC's church council.



AMA Shopping List

Needs this week are:

1-2 lb bags rice
1-2 lb bags dried pinto beans
Canned carrots, potatoes, spinach
Corn muffin mix
Soda crackers
Cereal
Canned Meat, Tuna
Canned Fruit, no cranberries or pumpkin

Please take food directly to the outside donation box at Pantry at back of St Jude's property. In addition, monetary donations can be made online at <u>allenfoodpantry.org</u>
You are greatly appreciated!







Rehearsals:

Christ's Kids Choir, Temporarily suspended.

Spirit Bells (beginning), Temporarily suspended.

Chancel Choir, Temporarily suspended.

Lutherings (intermed/adv), Temporarily suspended.



Lawn Mowing Teams

April 12 - Team Akkerman

April 19 - Team Hundtofte

April 26 – Team Reidmiller



Assisting Ministers

Doug Egner
Linda Federle
Kathy Fritz
Bill Henke
Cheryl Lindberg
Larry Lutz



Our Service for Good Friday, April 10th

Below in this CyberServant are the materials you need to follow along with the broadcast of Friday's service.

Please join us Friday evening, April 10th after 6:45 pm on Facebook. Service will start at 7:00 pm.



Our Service for Easter Sunday, April 12th

The last four pages of this CyberServant contain the materials you need to follow along with the broadcast of Sunday's service.

Please join us Sunday morning, April 12th after 9:15 am on Facebook. Service starts at 9:30 am.



Effective Until Further Notice

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church will <u>suspend</u>
<u>ALL WORSHIP SERVICES</u>, <u>ACTIVITIES</u> and
<u>MEETINGS</u>

All other groups which use our building (excluding Amazing Grace Day Care) are requested to suspend their activities as well.

Pastor Illausky and Ceci Gunderson will remain available for contact via email, text and telephone.

Please join us online Sundays at 9:30 am for a live service on Facebook at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Allen



After our broadcasted Easter Sunday service, Holy Communion will be available outside the church at 11:00 am. (See details on the next page.) If you are planning to participate in our "drive by" Eucharist event, it would also be a great opportunity to add your drop to our "Bucket of Financial Need".





See the instructions above just after the Pastor's message.

Alternately, if you wish to use Fire Stick:

- Install the Facebook Watch App. (Only once)
- Start it up. Logging in to your Facebook account does help the search for the church's website but it's not required.
- Search for 'Christ the Servant Lutheran Church'. Look for the icon below.



- Once there, the videos we have posted will show, as will the live broadcast after it's started.

If you have trouble, call the church at 972-727-3191 after 9:15 am and someone will be there to help you.



Don't have a Facebook Account?

- 1 Go to Christtheservant.com
- 2 -- Click on the Facebook icon in the lower right corner
- 3 -- Click on video
- 4 -- Click on the red LIVE button; you are in!



A Special Announcement Concerning Holy Communion

As announced during last Sunday's broadcast worship service, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be available at 11:00 a.m. this (Easter) Sunday for those who wish to receive it as follows:

- 1 DRIVE to CTSLC
- 2 PARK YOUR CAR in any available parking space
- 3 REMAIN IN YOUR CAR
- 4 TUNE YOUR CAR RADIO TO FM 104.4
- 5 PARTICIPATE in a brief rite of confession and forgiveness
- 6 LISTEN as the elements are consecrated
- 7 Following the instructions of "CTSLC's Director of Parking Lot Activities", DRIVE to the front of the church and lower you windows.
- 8 Wearing plastic gloves, Pastor and an assistant will provide communicants in each car with wrapped communion wafers and wine/grape juice in covered plastic communion cups.
- 9 Forgiven, fed and blessed, drive home with care there to celebrate Christ's resurrection!





Sunday is Ministry Support Sunday.

Approximately \$450 is needed monthly for buyers to purchase food towards two meals for the Samaritan Inn. Other ministries we support are AMA Food Pantry and Family Promise. *For this Sunday, 3 categories have been added to the GivePlus link* on our website Christtheservant.com – AMA Food Pantry, Family Promise and Samaritan Inn. Epayments can be directed to these charities from the GivePlus link through Tuesday, April 14th.





Prayer List

Chris Armstrong Vicky Mansfield

Steve Brevig Jennifer O'Neill

The Claycomb Family Mary Reisig

Jeremey Egner Joyce Ryder

Terry Gunderson June Saleika

Theodore Hopkins Lorraine Sandvig

June Kio Jan Vogelsang

Roland Kio Tom Whannell

Kim Lewis Wanda SueWilcox

Chad Lindberg

Please keep these individuals in your thoughts and prayers during this coming week.

WELCA at Christ the Servant Calendar



Used Book Sale May 2

Church Narthex



Book Club May 14th

7:00

Grundei Home*

Becoming by Michelle Obama



Book Club June 11th 7:00 Grundei Home*

The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West by David McCullough

Due to current events, dates above are subject to change.

More information such as dates, times and locations for some events will be posted as decisions are made. Other questions can be answered by Ginny Grundei at ggrundei51@gmail.com.

*Grundei home is at 827 Rockefeller Lane (2 blocks west of Allen Heights south of Bethany.)



Register at Christtheservant.com

Let's Get Involved!

CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMITTEES

Bob Peeler

Committee Contact

Children, Youth and Family Ministry Kim Andrews

Da' Guys Lennie Gunderson

Empty Nesters Alan Reidmiller **Evangelism and Outreach**

Bob Peeler

Family Promise Lou Federle Finance Committee

Health Cabinet Laura Kibby

Mini Parish Christina Osmer

Pam Grosze Member Care

Music Ministry Marilyn Lutz

Mutual Ministry Committee Rob Andrews

Property Committee Lou Federle Bob Peeler Senior Servants

Bill and Susan Henke Social Ministry Committee

Bob Peeler Stephen Ministry Technology Committee Richard Eyo

WELCA Pam Grosze, Ginny Grundei

Worship and Music Marilyn Lutz



You are strong, and your mighty power put the mountains in place. Psalm 65:6

Prelude Variations/Improvisations on Amazing Grace Alex Kirton

Introduction

Congregation Invited to Sing Verse One - ELW #345 - Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;

let your Spirit now endow me for meditation.

Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish

of your suff'ring, pain, and death, that I may not perish.

Opening Dialogue:

Pastor Jesus we have come to Calvary with you this night to seek to know the agony you suffered there.

Cong: Have mercy upon us, for we caused your suffering.

Pastor Teach us to endure, as you endured, the scorn of unbelievers and the torments of our enemies.

Cong: Make us bold and effective witnesses for you.

Pastor Save us from despair when we are circled round about.

Cong: Protect us from our enemies, especially the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh.

Pastor Help keep our faith in you strong forever.

Cong: When we falter, rescue us.

Pastor When we forget your promises, refresh our memories.

Cong: When we face death be with us and give us courage and hope.

Pastor Help us this evening to relive your death;

Cong: And to understand why you went to the cross for us.

Confession & Forgiveness

All: Lord Jesus I confess to you my sins which are many and various. My sins which nailed you to the cross. My failure to love you with all my heart, mind and soul which caused you to be forsaken by your heavenly Father. My attempt to seek popularity which caused you to become unpopular. My idle gossip and unkind words which caused you to be silent as a lamb before its shearers. My failure to love my neighbor as myself which caused you to love me even unto death. Have mercy on me and forgive me Christ. Grant me renewed assurance that your crucifixion has been the cause of my salvation.

Pastor Take heart children of God. Because you have sincerely confessed and repented of your part in Christ's crucifixion, by God's grace and the blood of Christ your sins are forgiven and you are reconciled to our Father in heaven.

Congregation Invited to Sing Verse One - ELW #349 - Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended

that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?

By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

First Scripture Reading & Meditation

First Altar Candle Is Extinguished

Congregation Invited to Sing Verse One - ELW #357 - Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless

Lamb of God pure and sinless, once on the cross an off'ring,

patient, lowly, guiltless, forsaken in your suffering:

from sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us.

Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.

Second Scripture Reading & Meditation

Second Altar Candle Is Extinguished

Congregation Invited to Sing Verse One - ELW #347 - Go To Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;

your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;

turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Third Scripture reading and Meditation

Third Altar Candle Is Extinguished

Congregation Invited to Sing Verse One - ELW #351 - O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,

now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

Fourth scripture reading and meditation

Fourth Altar Candle Is Extinguished

Congregation Invited to Sing ELW #616 - Jesus, Remember Me - THREE TIMES

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Fifth Scripture Reading and Meditation

Fifth Altar Candle Is Extinguished

Congregation Invited to Sing One Verse of - ELW #350 - They Crucified My Lord

They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word; they crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word; not a word, not a word, not a word.

Sixth Scripture Reading and Meditation

Sixth Altar Candle Is Extinguished

Congregation Invited to Sing Verses 1, 2 & 3 - ELW # 338 - Beneath the Cross of Jesus

- Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;

I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

Seventh Scripture Reading and Meditation

Congregation Invited to Sing Verse One - ELW #342 -There in God's Garden

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,

whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:

Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.

Final Scripture Reading

Seventh Altar Candle Remains Lit

"Were You There?"

The service concludes in silence.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Easter Sunday April 12, 2020

<u>Prelude</u> "Low in the Grave He Lay" arr. Alex Kirton

Welcome

We begin In the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality". Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone who join with us in singing hymns of praise and proclaiming God's faithfulness, power and love. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, grateful and eager to joyfully to proclaim the good news of God's endless love with everyone around us.

Pastor Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Cong: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Cong: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise and thank you for the gift of your salvation. Continue to bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give through Jesus Christ our Lord now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" ELW #365

- Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia! now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia! praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

ELW Setting 3 Pages 138-140
 P In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy
 P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy
 P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy
 P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy
 P Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 3

Pages 140-141

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- 1 Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*
- 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*
- 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

First Reading

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

ELW 366

1 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won!

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions has dispersed.

Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

- The three sad days have quickly sped, Christ rises glorious from the dead.
 - All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!
- 4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
 - Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you, from death's sting free your servants too,
 - that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909

Musical Offering

"Because He Lives"

arr. Alex Kirton

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

<u>Prayers of the Church</u> Congregational Response: **hear our prayer.**

Announcements

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW #660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

- Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

 Refrain
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

<u>Dismissal</u>

Pastor Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news.

Cong: Thanks be to God, Alleluia!

Postlude "There Is Power in the Blood" arr. Alex Kirton