

Celebration of Worship

Easter "Fools" Sunday

April 1, 2018

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

Pope John Paul II

PRELUDE *Carillon-Sortie* Mulét

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

AN EASTER CALL (responsively)

One: Jesus Christ is risen today!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: The tomb could not hold him.

All: The grave is empty. Christ is risen!

One: Jesus Christ is risen today!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

*Take a moment and share an Easter greeting
with those sitting near you.*

* Please stand, if you are able.

* HYMN *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* # 123

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *50 Years in the Neighborhood*

Prayer

(Children in Preschool through 2nd Grade are dismissed for Praise and Play.)

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *O Sons and Daughters of the King* Sjolund
Chancel Choir

O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days, to God your hearts and voices raise
In songs of joy and shouts of praise: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

And we the holy Church unite, as evermore is just and right,
In glory to the King of light.

O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting: Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

DEDICATION OF ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING GIFTS

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *I Corinthians 1:18-25* p. 926

GOSPEL LESSON *John 20:1-18* p. 882

SERMON *The Easter Fool –
God Pulls off the Greatest Jest in History!*
Pastor Larry De Vuyst

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

As Easter people, we believe God is Lord of both life and death.

We believe that in an astounding act of grace, Jesus suffered and died
on the cross to save us from our sins.

We believe that, three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead,
promising us salvation, not because we deserve it, but out of love,
through grace.

We believe we are called to respond to that gift of grace, not out of
duty, but in gratitude; to seek peace, care for the ill, clothe the naked,
feed the hungry, empower the oppressed, and welcome the outcast; and
to carry out Christ's work until he comes again.

Because, as Easter people, we are confident that Christ will come again.
Alleluia! Amen.

* HYMN *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* # 229

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

The Words of Institution

The Communion

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(During the time of announcements, you are invited to come forward,
get a score, and join the choir as we sing Handel's master work.)*

* HYMN *The Hallelujah Chorus* Handel

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *Rondeau* Mouret
David Maller, Trumpet

* PRAYER UNDER THE CROSS