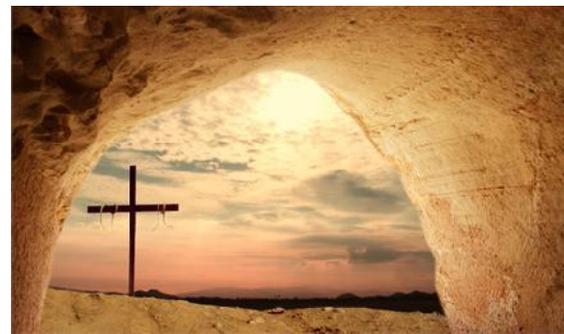


THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2017



From the Pastor - Here is the story of Easter morning, as written in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 1-12. This text comes from *THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language* by Eugene Peterson.

At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus. They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" Then they remembered Jesus' words. They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up. But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

There is, of course, more to the story recorded in Luke's Gospel. The story doesn't end with the apostles thinking the resurrection was made up by Mary and the other women, nor with Peter shaking his head in puzzlement. Later on, Jesus himself appears to the apostles. But even then, things don't go as we might expect they would. Early on in that encounter, Jesus says to them: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?" (24:38)

When they first heard about Jesus rising from the dead, the apostles had difficulty believing it was true. Even when they saw the risen Christ in the flesh, they still struggled to believe what they were seeing with their own eyes.

As we approach the centrally important period of the church year defined by Holy Week and Easter, there are 2,000 years separating us from these events described by Luke. We do have God's Word to rely upon, revealing to us what happened long ago. Also, all those years between the first Easter and now, are filled with the history of people coming to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and devoting their lives to living in relationship with Him. Both of which – the Bible and Christian witness – serve to strengthen and support us in our own lives of faith.

But it is still a life of FAITH to which we are called. We don't get to see and touch and talk with the risen Jesus, in the same way the apostles did. And though there has perhaps never been a time when faith in Jesus was easy, the times in which we now live seem to be particularly challenging. Given the threat of terrorism here and abroad, the ongoing political division in the U.S., the growing secularism of our society, (to name just a few, current concerns) being a follower of Jesus in this day and age is far from easy.

So if it happens to be the case that the approach of Holy Week and Easter finds you struggling with matters of faith, take heart! Though we strive to live out what we believe (that's why we worship, and pray, and study the Bible, and serve those in need, and spend time in fellowship with other Christians), we may also experience times when we feel spiritually weak and disheartened, when we may question and have some doubts, when puzzlement may seem an all too persistent companion. One way of putting such experiences into perspective, though, might be to recognize that "hey, the apostles felt that way too – and they had the risen Jesus right there in person!"

Believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and following Jesus by loving and serving others, isn't easy. But then, we are not left on our own in the living out of our faith. It's not up to us to produce sufficient resources for following in Jesus' footsteps – it's not up to us to marshal sufficient strength, hope, courage, patience, compassion, understanding, generosity, forgiveness.

Continued on page 2

Our ability to live as faithful disciples of Jesus comes from the same source as it did for Jesus' original disciples. The last thing Jesus said to the apostles in Luke's Gospel was this: "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (24:49) The "power from on high" given to the apostles long ago, and to us today, is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the risen Jesus. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, our Counselor, our Comforter. Through whom Jesus ministers to us when we are spiritually disheartened, puzzled, having doubts.

What we will soon celebrate is not just that Jesus himself was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago. But that Jesus continues to bring new life into our world today, through the power of the Holy Spirit. New life for us, and new life for others. Raising us up, raising others up, to experience the hope and joy Jesus so graciously gives!

Yours in (the Risen) Christ,

Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

by Valerie Reid

As you know, each month a Council member writes a short article or story for the Crier. I was just about to write a little something about another hymn that means something to me, when I realized it was more than appropriate to write a little something about how much it has meant to me to serve as Council president.

Today, I sent my last Agenda to my fellow Council members and tonight we will elect new officers, including a new president. Just like that, two years has flown by! So much has happened in these couple of years, including, of course, our Capital Campaign – Restoring, Renewing, Rejoicing. Now the completion of what we imagined, prayed for, and worked for, is about to happen. Beginning with the new kitchen, our visions are becoming realities!

It's been a true honor for me to serve as Council President. It's given me a unique and wonderful perspective, which has only magnified my love and admiration for the people of Holy Cross. We may be small, but we are mighty! The love of God and the desire to do his Will is vibrantly alive at Holy Cross. We are truly blessed, in so many ways.

And in particular, I'd like to single out our pastor. Serving as Council President gives a person a unique opportunity to know him better, to more closely see how he thinks, what he does. Right from the start, I found myself continually moved and marveling at what a clear-thinking, strong-hearted, fair-minded, and deeply loving man of God we have in our Pastor Rich. He is The Real Thing.

So thanks, one and all, for your kindness and support, as I took on a role very different from my theatrical teaching/directing background, and found myself challenged, inspired, and blessed. Thanks especially to my fellow council members and our wonderful pastor – we are in good hands, in more ways than one!

MISSION TRIP

Another Work Camp Mission Trip Fundraiser is taking place, as you'll see with the poster displayed in the Narthex. There are currently five high schoolers who are planning to attend, when we travel to Woonsocket, RI this summer (July 23-29) to do painting and home repairs for people in need. We will be joined by hundreds of other youth from around our region, to make a tremendous impact on the community, while also growing in our relationship with Jesus. The people of Holy Cross have already generously supported this trip with the cookie walk that took place in February, for which we again say "thanks!" The invitation now is to select one of the envelopes from the poster, place a donation inside, then mail it to the church or drop it in the offering plate. Any amount you can give is very much appreciated!



LEMONADE FROM LEMONS

by Donna Simmons

There is a saying when your day is full of lemons it's time to make lemonade. There are times when life gets out of your control and in the last three months most of my circumstances were totally out of my control, but I did what I could when my plans were derailed.

My husband and I were on a long awaited cruise around South America and Antarctica. About half way through the cruise I became ill and was quarantined for five days. This is standard procedure if someone is ill so that if the problem is infectious it will not spread throughout the ship. I saw Antarctica from my starboard window (the starboard side of the ship is the right side). But I bought a copy of the DVD one of the ship's photographers took of our visit to Antarctica.

When I was finally well we were informed that our shore excursion on the Falkland Islands had been cancelled because the Gentoo Penguins we were to see decided to move to a minefield left over from the Falkland war with Argentina. The penguins are light enough not to set off mines but humans were a whole different problem. Instead of booking another excursion in its place I decided it was a sign that I needed another day of rest.

When I couldn't link up with the protestant minister on board I made friends with the rabbi and linked up with a mother and daughter from Tallahassee with whom we had wonderful conversations about our favorite Bible passages and I continued with my daily devotions.

Twice when we were on shore excursions we forgot my husband's picture ID on the ship and money for souvenirs, but the real souvenirs were the memories and the pictures we accumulated on our journey and the friends that we made. Then I dropped my camera on a tour bus but held it together for the rest of the trip with rubber bands.

We prayed in churches along the way and took a series of trams up to the big statue of Christ The Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro.

All in all our adventures were over the top visiting people, nature, animals, and ice flows, cruising up the Amazon, riding in a tram over a rain forest, walking through another, and canoeing up a channel in another rain forest, and finally sailing as part of a crew in a 5-lap Americas Cup Regatta in St. Maarten.

We made it back to the US in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida where we had a lot of tight connections to make to get home on time. I prayed for safe travel home and all connections made. It always feels good when my prayers are answered. But, I should have asked for a warm house to come home to. When we arrived home our 23-year-old furnace had died and the house temperature was 47 degrees. It's a good thing our wood stove still works and we have plenty of wood.

Once again, I thanked our Lord for getting us home safe and that we had been able to stock our pantry and fridge before the blizzard showed up 3 days after we got home and got the house temperature up to the mid 60's before the storm.

I was telling my dear friend, Millie, about our adventures and she said I always looked at the positive in every situation I found myself in. I guess I have made a lot of lemonade in my life with the guidance of our Lord. He, of course, is always in control.

PORTLAND SEA DOGS DAY

On Sunday June 11th the baseball game at Hadlock Field in Portland will be special in a number of ways. 1) It will be martial arts day at the park, and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles will be in attendance; 2) kids will also have the chance to play catch down on the field and run the bases; 3) Holy Cross musicians and choir members will be leading the singing of the National Anthem at the start of the game, and also God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch! For all of these reasons we are hoping a good-sized group of people from Holy Cross will want to attend the game and all sit together. We don't have to have firm numbers who will be attending until closer to June, but it would be helpful to have some indication in this regard in order to have a better sense of what range to ask for in terms of the number of tickets for them to set aside for us. So if you are "reasonably sure" you will be able to attend, please call the church office, or add your name to the list posted in the Narthex. This is sure to be lots of fun for people of all ages! (And please feel free to invite a friend.)

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: "In, With and Under"

By Roger Rotvig

One of the major disputes carried on between Martin Luther and the Roman church in the years 1517 thru 1530, was an accurate description of how the elements of bread and wine in Holy Communion were to be understood.

The Roman Catholic position at the time was the elements of bread and wine are changed in the mass to become the actual body and blood of Jesus. In the Mass, the priest utters the Latin words, "Hoc Est Corpus Meum", and the bread becomes the actual body of Christ. (Note the similarity to the popular phrase for magical tricks, 'Hocus Pocus'.)

This belief, that the altar suddenly held the actual body and blood of Christ led to many laws regarding its accessibility to the average lay person. Most often, only the clergy were allowed to partake.

Luther taught against this doctrine and took great caution in the way he described the elements. He spoke of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the communion service. To present this concept, he used three prepositions to illustrate the concept: "in, with and under". 1. The body and blood of Christ is present "in" the bread and wine. 2. The body and blood of Christ is present along "with" the bread and wine. 3. The body and blood of Christ is present "under" the signs of the bread and wine.

This understanding not only permeated the thinking of those who helped in the astounding growth of Luther's teachings in that day, but it also spoke against those reformers who began to teach that the act of Holy Communion was merely a "remembrance" of Jesus' supper with his disciples in the upper room the night before he was crucified.

The "consecrated" elements, bread and wine, are to be respectfully treated. Portions remaining after any communion service are to be handled (sometimes saved and sometime disposed of) in a respectful manner.



PARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

The Parent's Prayer group meets the first Monday of every month in Lord Street House. From 4:30 to 5:30 we will share prayer concerns and pray together. From 5:30 to 6:00, we will devote time to fellowship and book discussion. (The book we are reading is *The Power of a Praying Parent* and copies are available.) We pray for all children of all ages and all stages - please join us!

SHARE THE BOUNTY



Due to the kitchen renovations, the April Bean Supper will not be held. We will, hopefully, resume with the May Bean Supper. Please stay tuned!

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The Friendship Lunch for April will not be held due to the kitchen renovations. We will, hopefully, resume in May.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Over the past year and a half our telephone (yes, we still have a land line) has rung on an increasing basis for all sorts of requests for charitable contributions, as well as political announcements. It has gotten to the point where we now screen out calls to avoid what has become somewhat of harassment. Some particular charities have actually called up to 5 times in a week. On a few occasions, when I do speak to the caller, and after they press their “pitch” and gotten to the close, when they ask me if they can put us down for \$100, or \$50, I ask if I can have more information about what they do with the money they collect. “Are you a paid solicitor or a volunteer?” “How much of my contribution goes to fund the cause and how much is for administrative expenses?” I usually do not get much information.

I am a firm believer in what Mother Teresa has said about charitable giving –“Charity begins at home.” I take this to mean family, friends, community, including my church, and other local needs that are visible and familiar. We are well aware of the truly great needs in our country and in other countries in the world. We pray about them every Sunday in our Prayers for all Persons in need. Sometimes when we know of a national tragedy, and we are urged to give, we hope it gets to the place that it is most needed. We also give to worldwide needs through our benevolent giving to our own church, Holy Cross, which goes to the Synod or National Church for distribution. But for us, keeping it local and familiar seems to be much more satisfying; especially with the knowledge most of our contributions are used for what they are intended. None of us are Warren Buffett or Bill Gates, where we can direct many, many dollars to specific areas and control their use. When we hear about the millions of dollars collected for food for areas overseas that are confiscated and sold for profit, without benefiting the intended, as recently reported on a Sunday “60 Minutes” report, we are appalled.

Charitable giving is a very important part of Christian Stewardship. There are so many different ways to maximize that giving. What is satisfying to the giver is to know that that charitable donation, given freely and generously, is put to its greatest use. As a wise man has said “knowledge where your money goes is well spent”.

Carl Graves

TAG SALE

The Church Tag Sale is scheduled for Saturday May 20th! It would be greatly appreciated if you could start setting aside your good quality used items to donate – though no large electronics or upholstered furniture please. You will be able to drop items throughout the week leading up to May 20th, and getting things earlier in the week will actually be appreciated as it will make the pricing and set up for the sale easier! People to help set up and run the sale are also needed, so please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the white board!



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH

Services at 8:15 am and 10:45 am – outside procession, weather permitting

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH

Service at 7:30 pm – using drama this year to present the story of the Last Supper

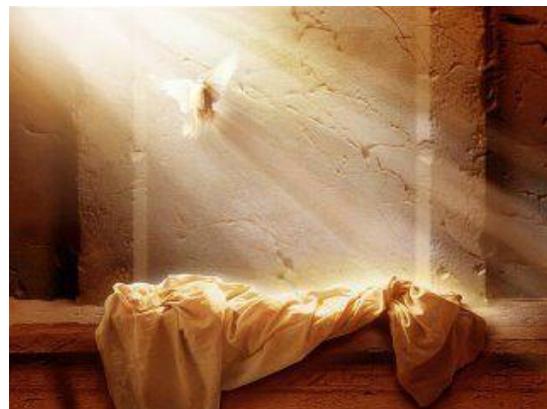


GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH

Service at 7:30 pm – Tenebrae service with sanctuary getting progressively darker

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH

Services at 8:15 am and 10:45 am – with special music and Easter cross adorned with flowers





EASTER FLOWERS

We would like to have a beautiful flower display in the Chancel for Easter.

Please fill out the order form and return it with payment no later than April 10th 2017

Flower and size	Cost per plant	Number ordered	Cost of # ordered
Lilies			
6" lilies	\$ 12.00	_____	_____
8" double lilies	\$ 24.00	_____	_____
Tulips			
6" tulip	\$10.00	_____	_____
10" tulip	\$20.00	_____	_____
Hyacinth			
6" hyacinth	\$10.00	_____	_____
10" hyacinth	\$20.00	_____	_____
Daffodils			
6" daffodil	\$10.00	_____	_____

Dollar amount given to purchase flowers for our Easter Cross

TOTAL # OF PLANTS ORDERED _____

TOTAL COST OF ORDER _____

Person(s) giving flowers _____

Phone # _____

Print Wording of Dedication for the Bulletin:

LENTEN WEDNESDAY MEAL AND SERVICE

Continuing throughout Lent, a simple meal of bread and soup will be served in Luther Hall at 6:00 pm followed by a worship service from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, also in Luther Hall. The services are a time of prayers, hymns, readings, reflection and sharing. These times to gather are encouraged as a part of one's Lenten preparation leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Indicating your intention to attend by adding your name to the list in the Narthex is appreciated, though not required.

Signing up to bring a soup or bread is also appreciated – and please note that due to work being done on the kitchen we need soups to be brought already warm and in crock pots since we won't have the use of a stove. Thank you!



PALM CROSSES

Remember those lovely palm crosses you received last year on Palm Sunday? We will be making these unique keepsakes for the congregation once again, and you are invited to take part in their creation! Carol Steingart is our resident expert, having learned to weave the crosses from her father when she was a child. Carol will lead a Palm Cross Workshop on Wednesday April 5th, from 10 am to 12 noon in the Lord Street House, to which all are welcome!



BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

The next craft day is scheduled for April 15th. Please plan on attending this day of creativity and fellowship! There are jobs for everyone, whether you are an experienced sewer or not. Please come join in the fun!

As of this date, the craft day will be held despite the renovations in the kitchen. Please check with Linda as the date gets closer to see if this plan has changed.

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS

The Kitchen Renovation Project has begun!! The contractor will do demolition work first, then the cabinet manufacturer will need to do final measurements. The cabinets will be 3-4 weeks to manufacture and deliver. Once the cabinets are installed it will take 2 more weeks to measure, fabricate, and install the countertops. The whole process will be about seven weeks from start to finish.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

He Is Risen

It was Easter Saturday, and a mother was sitting at the kitchen table coloring Easter eggs with her son, Dan 3 and her daughter, Debbie 2. She told her children about the true meaning of Easter, and taught them the traditional Easter morning greeting, "He is risen!" and the reply, "He is risen, indeed!"

The children planned to surprise their father a Lutheran minister with this greeting on Easter Sunday morning by saying "He is risen!" as soon as he awoke. The next morning, bright and early, little Dan heard his father arising in the bedroom, and raced down the hallway shouting, "Daddy, God's back!"

Psalm 68:3

But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy.



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	3 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	4	5 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6:00 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 pm Lenten Service	6 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	7	8 9 am Seaglass
9 PALM SUNDAY 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	10	11 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	12 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 7:30 pm Service	14 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service	15 8:30 am Blueberry Festi- val Craft Day 9 am Seaglass
16 EASTER 8:15 Worship 10:45 Worship	17	18	19 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	20 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	21	22 9 am Seaglass
23 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass 30 10:00 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	24	25	26 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	27 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	28	29 9 am Seaglass 9:00 am Evergreen Quilters

SUNDAY PRAYER LIST

In addition to our very active Prayer Partner ministry, prayers are also offered on Sunday mornings for members of Holy Cross, friends, family members, and those in our wider community. Due to a computer glitch, Pastor Rich needs to rebuild the Sunday morning prayer list and needs your help to do so. If you have a name you would like included, please email it to pastor@kennebunklutheran.org (or you can call the church office at 985-4803). Although only the name is included in the Sunday prayers, if you could share with Pastor Rich a little about the person's condition/situation that would also be helpful. Finally, please be sure to indicate what your relation is to the person. Along with being named during the prayers each Sunday, these names also appear on the Prayer List published in the newsletter (again, without any information being shared other than the name).

SERVING US IN APRIL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 2, 9, 16, 23

8:15 am

Carl Graves

Bobbie Jo Boulay

10:45 am

Donna Simmons

Robert White

April 30 – 10:00 am

Donna Simmons

Robert White

ALTAR GUILD

Vi Stephens

USHERS

8:15 am

Jack Bates

10:45 am

Alyce Carrera

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

To get pertinent information out to our members and friends in a timely fashion, The Crier is published the last full week of each month. In order for us to use this publishing schedule, we have a firm deadline for submissions. *The firm deadline for the May Crier is Sunday, April 23rd.*

Please send all articles to Julie Clapp at juliane@julianemarie.com or leave them in the church office.

THE CRIER

APRIL 2017

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

April 2, 9, 16, 23:

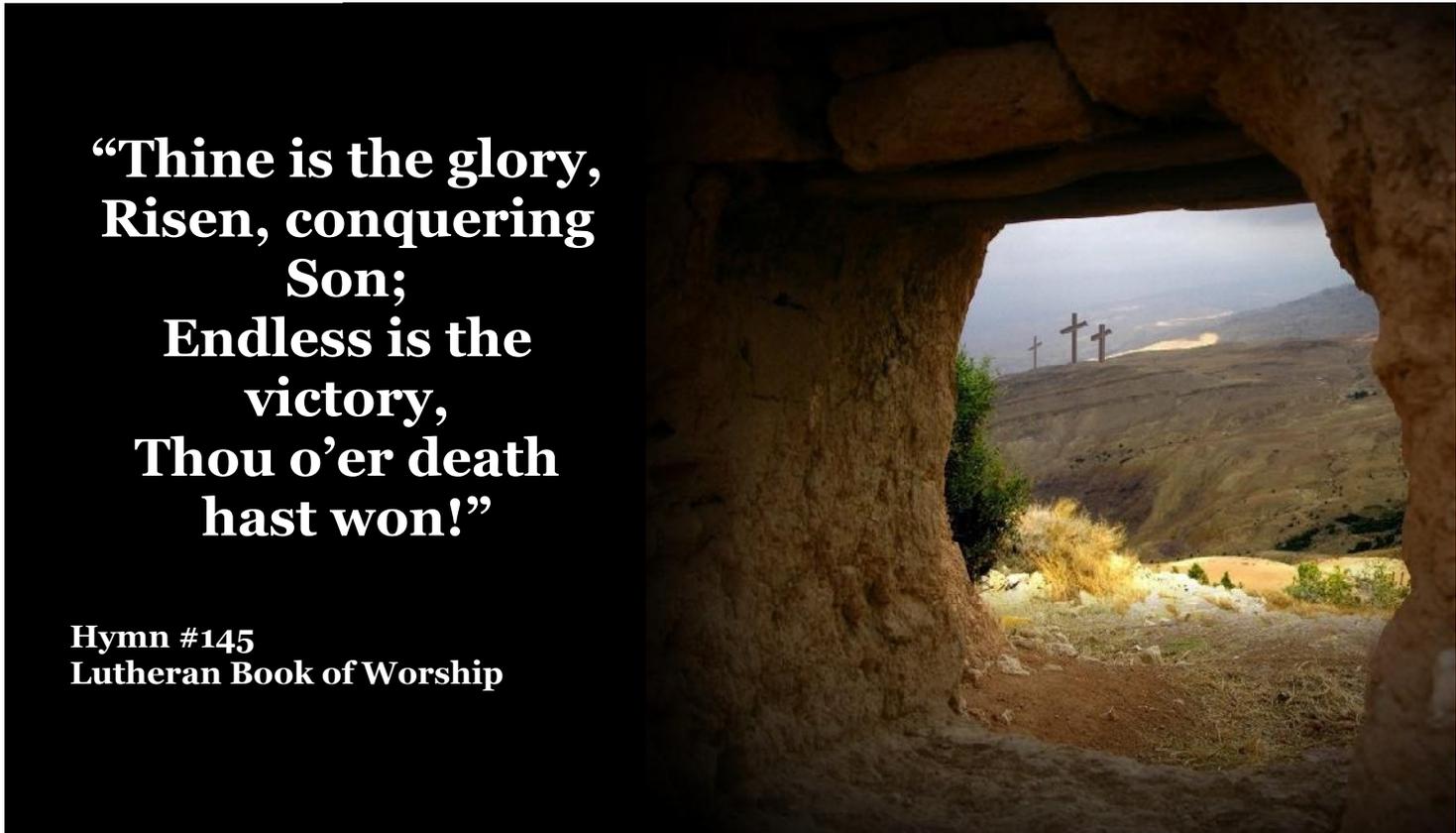
8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

April 30:

10:00 am: Single Service with combined Modern/Traditional Liturgies*

*Holy Communion served at all services



**“Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering
Son;
Endless is the
victory,
Thou o’er death
hast won!”**

**Hymn #145
Lutheran Book of Worship**