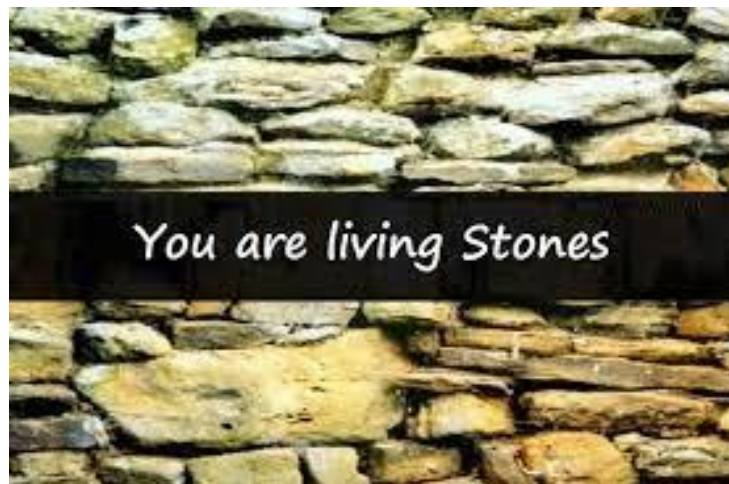


## THE EASTER PROJECT:

### RAISED TO RESTORE

Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the **Living** God left his tomb to conquer death, restore us to life in His name, and to build his Church. That building continues today as Christ works in us and through us to make His church a place for God's people to comfort and encourage one another, to celebrate and feast on all that God offers us, and to be stirred to action by His Holy Spirit to do His Kingdom work.



### *HOLINESS FOR THOSE IN HIDING*

#### **PRESERVICE**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **OPENING SONG**

**“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”**

LSB 473

## **INVOCATION**

*P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: On the evening Jesus rose from the dead, His disciples were locked in the upper room. Their sorrow had turned to fear, and afraid of what might happen to them as followers of Jesus, they stayed hidden away, discouraged from building upon what Jesus had taught them. In the days that God's temple was rebuilt, as recorded in the Book of Ezra, the people then also found themselves discouraged by what others were thinking and what they might do to them and became afraid to build on what God had placed before them. But what about us? Do we not sometimes find ourselves afraid to go out and boldly build on what God has set before us? Do we find ourselves fearful of what might happen to us in our finances, our relationships, in our many other activities if we come out and make the building of God's Kingdom our first priority?*

**C: We are like living stones, being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)**

*P: So, let's take a moment to confess our sins before God, our Father, seeking His mercy, forgiveness, strength and courage to be built up in Jesus and offer spiritual sacrifices to Him.*

*Please take a moment for personal, silent confession*

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

*P: Most merciful God,*

**C: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved or trusted You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

*P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: Christ has risen!*

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Please be seated*

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

**“Resurrecting”**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

### **Ezra 4:1-6**

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel,<sup>2</sup> they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."<sup>3</sup> But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."<sup>4</sup> Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build<sup>5</sup> and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.<sup>6</sup> And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.



*E: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."<sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;<sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **OFFERING HYMN**

**“O Sons and Daughters of the King”**

LSB 470 vs. 1, 4-8

### **MESSAGE**

***HOLINESS FOR THOSE IN HIDING***

Pastor Ben Spaulding

*Please stand*

## **PRAYERS**

### **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.**

(Matthew 6:9–13)



## **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

- P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."*
- P: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*
- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.*
- C: And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

**"The Lamb"**

**"Joyful, Joyful"**

**"O Come to the Altar"**

**"I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives"**

**"Because He Lives" (Amen)**

LSB 547

Children's Bells

LSB 468

*Please stand*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **BLESSING**

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*
- C: Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Because He Lives” (Amen)

