

## Order of Worship for April 14, 2024 8:30 AM

### Prelude

P: Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

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

**Opening Hymn: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" - Hymn #465**

### Confession and Forgiveness:

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

**C: Amen.**

P: When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

**C: We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.**

P: Let us therefore turn to God in true repentance, that our sins might be wiped out.

P: Almighty and all-merciful God,

**C: We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise. We have offended your majesty and defied your divinity; we have brought death and darkness where you once said, "Let there be light." We deserve the doom that you have decreed. We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise.**

P: But Christ is risen.

**C: Risen indeed!**

P: Since we have been united with him in a death like his,

**C: we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. For his sake we implore you, O God, forgive our sins and free us from their dire consequences. Let us be raised with Christ.**

P: "Thus it is written, that the Messiah had to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in his name." That word is now proclaimed to you. Your sins are forgiven in the name of our risen Savior.

**C: Alleluia! Amen!**

### Service of the Word

#### Entrance Psalm:

P: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

**C: at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

P: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up

**C: and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

P: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help,

**C: and You have healed me.**

P: O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;

**C: You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

P: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,

**C: and give thanks to His holy name.**

P: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

**C: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

**C: at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day:**

P: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise:** *“With High Delight Let Us Unite”* - **Hymn #483**

### **First Lesson:** Acts 3:11–21

R: While the man who was healed from being lame clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Lesson:** 1 John 3:1–7

R: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Jesus. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone

who thus hopes in Him purifies Himself as He is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 24:36-49

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter

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

P: As the disciples were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them.

Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

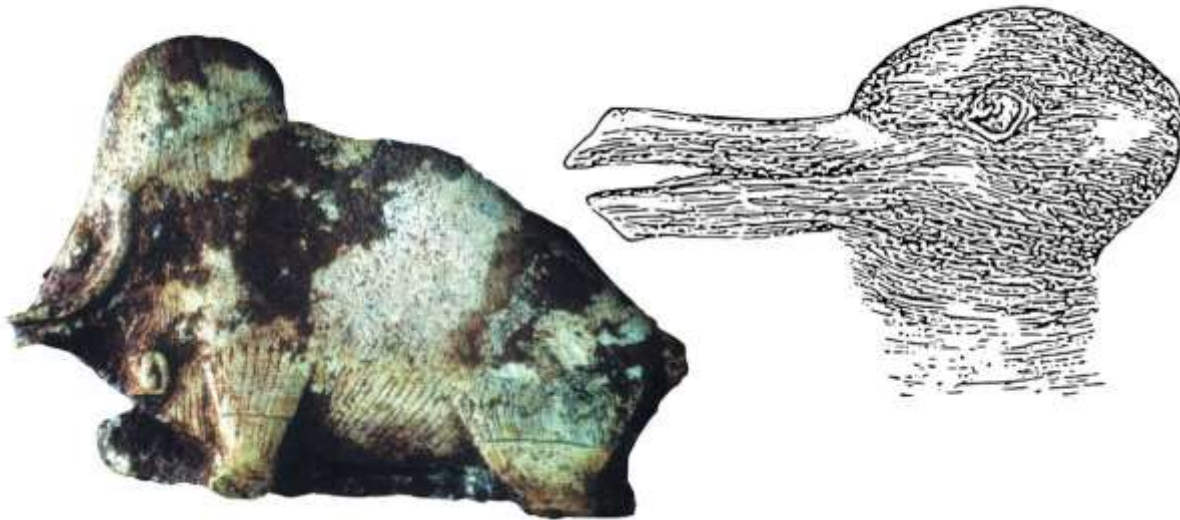
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

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**Children's Message:** (8:30)

**Sermon Hymn:** "*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*" **Hymn #545**

**Sermon:** "*Opened Minds*" - **Luke 24 36-49**



What do you see in these two pictures? It all depends on what you are looking for.

The “Napoleon” movie came out and depicted his greatest triumph at the Battle of Austerlitz. One of the reasons for his success is that the two main armies opposing him were from Austria and Russia. They agreed to meet up at a set date. But when that date came, only the Austrians were there. They thought the Russians had betrayed them. But the problem is that the date meant two different things to both armies because the Austrians were using our modern Gregorian calendar and the Russians were using the older Julian one. So the Russian army came two weeks later, the right date on their calendar.

So it was with how people looked at God’s promises. To Jesus’ disciples Jews like them, they thought God’s promises would mean that God would raise up a new King David, start a revolution to overthrow the Romans, and then rule over the Jews in Palestine as the new Israel. What had been lost in the Old Testament would be restored.

Jesus seemed to mess that up when he allowed Himself to be arrested and crucified. How could He be the New David if He was dead? Then this news came that Jesus was alive. Was this true? What did this mean?

A woman complained that a grocery store was selling “lion” meat. How could they do that? Well they could if you know that what the woman thought was “lion” was actually “loin.”

Jesus told the disciples that they too were looking at things the wrong way. Jesus had told them several times before He died that He would be betrayed, killed, and then arise from the dead. It was not that they didn’t hear Him. It was not that they completely forgot. It was just that it didn’t fit into what they thought should happen.

How do we view what is supposed to happen? In college there is so much concentration on getting a degree to become marketable for a high paying job. That way you can afford a new car, pay off student loans, buy a house, and provide for a family. As you work you view how

you can keep up with the pressures at work and save up for a comfortable retirement. As you get older you hope you can keep your health to do those things you were too busy to do earlier in life. But do we expect to be guided by what God has in store for us and by our own plans?

Because of what the disciples as Jews of their time were expecting, the cross made no sense to them. Jesus' death was a sidetrack, an unfortunate bump in the road. Now they could get on to what was supposed to happen—Jesus starting the revolution to overthrow the Romans and restore the nation of Israel.

That is an opinion held by many Jews and others today. Israel's destiny is to become an independent nation in Palestine where Jews can live in freedom. We can argue over what should be done in international politics over whether or not the state of Israel should exist. That is for modern people to discuss. But we can't use the argument that they should have it because of God's promises in the Old Testament. God did give the Holy Land to those He led out of Egypt into the Promised Land. He did raise up kings like David to rule over them. But because they forsook God to worship idols, He sent in other nations to destroy and put them into exile. Yes, God did promise to restore Israel. But we have to see what it means today to talk about "Israel," "God's people," and "Jerusalem," according to the Bible.

Telescopes enable us to see what we cannot with the naked eye. The planets Uranus, Neptune, and Mercury were only discovered, like the moons of Jupiter and the rings of Saturn by telescopes. We tend to think that the main purpose of these telescopes is to make things bigger. But just as important is their ability to concentrate light so those things are not only big enough, but have enough light coming to our eyes to see them.

Jesus is our "telescope" to the Scriptures. Jesus met the disciples after He rose and talked to them. Luke tells us "He opened their eyes to the Scriptures." He turned their way of seeing it from what they were expecting to what was determined. The key to it is Jesus Himself. If they did not look at the Old Testament through the "glasses" of Jesus they would get it wrong. In Jesus they could see that the "Israel" God was talking about was not a physical nation made up of physical descendants of Abraham, but a spiritual kingdom, the Church, made up of those who are spiritual descendants of Abraham. "Jerusalem" is not a city in the Middle East, but the Church. A few weeks ago we were told that when Jesus cleared the temple He said, "Destroy this temple, and I will rebuild it in three days." His disciples did not know at that time what He meant, but after Jesus rose they did understand. They saw that the "temple" was not a building in Jerusalem, but Jesus Himself who died and was raised in three days.

People have all kinds of interpretations of what the Bible says. That is what led the Roman Catholic church to say that only the official church can interpret what it says and led them for centuries to not allow it to be translated into the languages that the common people could read. All kinds of Christian denominations read the same Bible, but have different views. What are we to do with that?

Again, we have to go back to Jesus, who “opened the mind of the disciples.” We don’t just look at the Bible with just a blank state of mind. No, we look at it through the “glasses” of Jesus. So our clear focus is not on how good we can be, but how loving our Savior is. Everything else comes from that. That becomes the basis for our hope, for how we live out our lives, for what we share with others. For through Jesus our minds are truly opened.

P: Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples what your prophets had predicted about your life, death, and resurrection.

**C: Open our minds to understand your Scriptures.**

P: Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that by your death you paid the price for all our sins.

**C: Open our minds to understand the depth of your forgiveness.**

P: Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that you came to give them life, and life in abundance.

**C: Open our minds to understand the greatness of your grace.**

P: Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that you came to save all nations.

**C: Open our minds to understand the grand plan of your salvation.**

P: Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that you perfectly followed the will of your Father.

**C: Open our minds to understand the Father's will for our lives.**

P: Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that they had been given the mission to spread the Good News.

**C: Open our minds to understand that we, too, have been given the power to proclaim your name.**

P: Living Lord, as we grow in our understanding of you day by day.

**C: Continue to be revealed in us, we pray. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Lord, in Your mercy;

**C: hear our prayer.**

### **Sharing Our Ministry**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

P:

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing: (Pastor)**

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” - Hymn #474**

**Postlude**