

Littleton United Methodist Church
April 12, 2009
The Feast of Easter
Service of Word and Table

Prelude *The Hallelujah Chorus* HANDEL
During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests please sign the attendance pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Alleluia, Alleluia (verses 1&2)* Page 162

+Greeting

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: From a world that leaves the just to the mercy of the strong,

People: **We come to worship the God who turns crosses into crowns.**

Pastor: With hearts that long for the victory of life but fear the triumph of death.

People: **We come to worship the God who turns the vanquished into victors.**
Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

+Blessing of the Paschal Candle

Pastor: Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all ages;

People: **to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.**

Pastor: By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord, guard and keep us!

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the light of Christ who rises this day in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds. Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share and celebrate the great mystery of your death and resurrection may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

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People: **He is risen indeed!**

+Entrance Hymn #302 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

Prayer of the Day

God of empty tombs and abundant surprises, who announces new life in the

face of death, dry our tears of grief and calm the anguish of our losses as we listen for amazing good news. Help us find our identity in the person of Jesus Christ. Be to us a living presence, that the story of Easter may become our story, and we can embody its hope for the whole world. **AMEN.**

The First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Corinne Replogle, Lay Reader

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24



Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
Whose mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now proclaim,

"The mercy of the Lord endures forever."

The Lord is my strength and my power;
the Lord has become my salvation.

There are joyous songs of victory

in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,
the right hand of the Lord is exalted,
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has chastened me sorely,
but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

**This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

R

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

R

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

He Is The Risen Lord

MARTIN

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

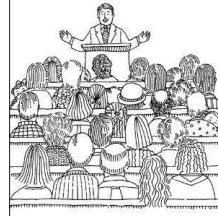
+The Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 70



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
Easter egg hunt following service
- Monday: 10:00 AM Beckham-Ransom Circle at Kay Herman's home
- Wednesday: Newsletter deadline
6:00 PM Bible Study
7:30 PM Choir Practice
- Friday: 1:30 PM Warren Hills Nursing Home birthday party
- Saturday: 7:30 AM UMW Prayer Breakfast - Rocky Mount
8:00 AM Yard Sale at John 3:16 Center
10:00 AM **STOP HUNGER NOW** packaging event



Our Gifts

Offerings last week: \$2,246.25

Our Mission Statement

Littleton United Methodist Church strives to provide all-inclusive worship of God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual growth.

We are to minister in Christ's name to the needy, the sick, the dying, the unchurched, and to each other.

We are to be active Christians, spreading the Good News.

We are to strive to witness for Jesus in our daily lives, in our community and throughout the world.



Our Service

Serving in Worship:

Choir Director / Organist: Tom Parker
Organist emeritus: Trudi May
Acolyte: Martha Sherman
Greeters: Susannah Sherman (west)
Martha Hayes (east)
Ushers: Jack May (west)
Lewis Fields (west)
Josh Hardy (east)
Nursery: Susan Merchant
Liz Solovieff
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel
Communion stewards: Don & Connie Henry
Ed & Darla Angel

2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Administrative Council: Richard Sherman
Congregational Care: Jean Houston
Shepherding: Elizabeth Solovieff
Discipleship: Helen Burtchell
Age Level: TBA
Outreach: Helen Burtchell
Missions: Richard Sherman
Finance: Mike Herman
Pastor-Parish: Sherman Merchant
Lay Leadership: Rob Licht
Trustees: Shirley Anschutz
Kitchen: Marie Fields
Membership: Marj Prescott
Scholarship: Marvin Newsom III
Memorials: Matt Johnston
Newsletter: Susan Merchant
Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Jarvis

Serving in our Church, Community and World

If you are interested in knowing more about our mission projects, our church, or becoming a member, please call Pastor Rob at 252 586-5385.

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** for all of the children immediately following the worship service at the side yard of the church.

The **Beckham-Ransom circle** will meet at Kaye Herman's home at 10:00 AM on Monday.

The **Trustees** will meet at the parsonage at 11:00 AM on Monday to evaluate upcoming spring projects.

The **deadline for newsletter** articles and photos is Wednesday. Please email them to susanmerchant@gmail.com

There will be a **UMW Prayer Breakfast** at 7:30 AM this Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Rocky Mount. Please contact Helen Burtchell or Pat Zeismann for carpool information.

There will be a **Yard Sale** at 8:00 AM at the **John 3:16 Center** on Saturday.

*Only 6 more days until our **Stop Hunger Now packaging event!** This packaging event will be held in our fellowship hall on Saturday at 10:00 AM. Please contact Sherm Merchant (586-7866 or sherman-merchant@gmail.com) if you would like to **volunteer**. Remember to bring a cap if you don't want to wear a hairnet. If you would like to make a **donation**, please make your check payable to LUMC and designate "Stop Hunger Now" in the memo.*

We also **need cookies** for the Stop Hunger Now event. If you would like to bring some cookies, please contact Susan Merchant.

Dear Members of Littleton United Methodist Church:

Thank you for honoring me at the 5th Sunday Brunch in March and thank you for the warm welcomes that so many of you have extended to me since I became your musician in early March. I have enjoyed meeting and talking with each of you--What a wonderful group of people you are at LUMC.
Easter Blessings,

Tom Parker, organist/choir master