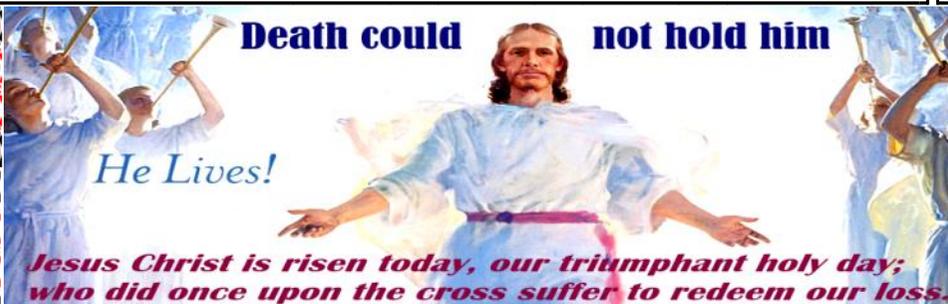


CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 05 April 2015

Te Rā o te Aranga / Easter Day

CHRIST IS RISEN!



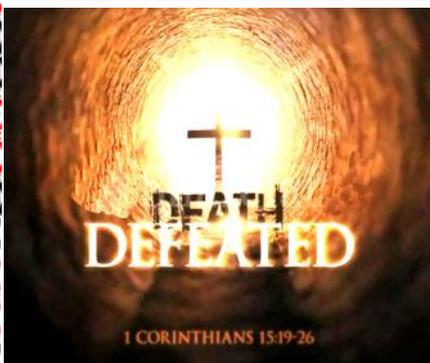
Christ is Risen!

SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

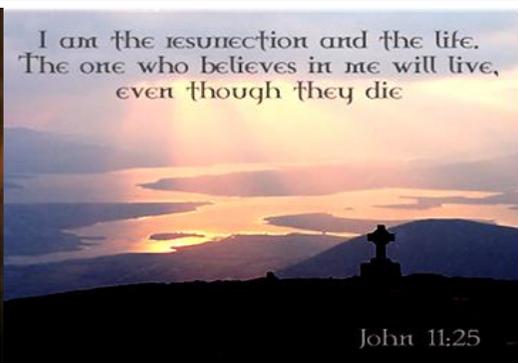
The Lord has risen indeed, alleluia! (Luke 24:34)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – Let us pray:

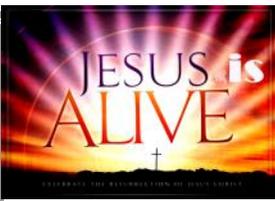
Christ, you are risen with the sun; you are light in our darkness, warmth in our cold. You are peace and hope and joy, for you went willingly to death. You turned defeat and failure to victory for all. You live eternally, and with you live the millions, living and dead, who trust in you. **Amen.**



I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live,
even though they die



John 11:25



Christ is Risen!

Across the country today Anglican churches are celebrating **Easter Day** as a festival in the Church calendar. Christians celebrate Easter Day to remember the great truth that Jesus Christ, who was nailed on a cross and died, arose from the dead just three days later! Through his death, burial, and coming back to life, Jesus paid the punishment for sin, in this way obtaining by payment for all who put trust in him, eternal life. Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday; now he offers to you the gift of eternal life and forgiveness of sins. **This is the meaning of Easter, and how it can change your life.** As we celebrate the truth that Jesus lives this morning, please take a few minutes to consider Jesus' death and coming back to life and what that means to you today. It shows that death is not necessarily the end of everything, does it not? (Refer to the two bottom pictures on front page). Jesus' death and coming back to life makes it possible for you to have eternal life, does it not?

The gospel passage for today from John 20 tells us that early on the first day of the week, which was the third day after Jesus had been buried, a certain person went to the tomb (a grave that was like a cave) where Jesus had been buried while it was still dark. She saw that the stone that had sealed the entrance to the tomb had been moved away from the entrance, and saw that the body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb and assumed that it had been taken out of the tomb and put somewhere (Jn. 20:2).

However it was on the third day after Jesus had been buried that God raised him from the dead (Acts 10:40). God allowed Jesus to be seen. He appeared to St. Peter the apostle. Then he appeared to the 12 apostles. They ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. After that, he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters in Christ at the same time. Most of them were still living should anyone want to question them. These eye witnesses could confirm that Jesus' coming back to life was an undeniable fact (1 Cor. 15:5-6; Acts 10:41).

Both Jesus and the scriptures said that after his death, Jesus would become alive again. But the disciples had not realised what this meant before. They had not expected the grave to be empty. But the evidence for Jesus' coming back to life was in the scriptures and in the empty grave. Jesus' coming back to life proved that he was really the Son of God. He had defeated even death. For those who put trust in him, death is not the end, but the beginning of a new life with God; which will continue for all eternity (refer to the two bottom pictures on front page).

If you would like to be forgiven of your sins and adopted into God's whānau to live with God for all eternity, you can put trust in the risen and living Christ by praying a prayer like this sincerely from the heart when led to by the Holy Spirit:

“Lord Jesus Christ, I believe you are the Son of God. Thank you for dying on the cross that I might be forgiven of my sins and have eternal life. Please forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. I believe that you rose from the dead and am alive now and I ask you right now to come in to my heart so that I can obey you as Lord of my life. I turn away from my sins and will obey you all the days of my life. In your name, amen.”

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.



The Reading from Acts: Acts 10:34-43

He is Risen!

A reading from Acts chapter 10 beginning at verse 34.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak. "I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same," he said. ³⁵ "He accepts people from every nation. He accepts all who have respect for him and do what is right.

³⁶ "You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened all through Judea. It started in Galilee after John preached about baptism.

³⁸ You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went around doing good. He healed all who were under the devil's power. God was with him.

³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by nailing him to a cross. ⁴⁰ ***But on the third day God raised him from the dead. God allowed Jesus to be seen.*** ⁴¹ But he wasn't seen by all the people. He was seen only by us. We are witnesses whom God had already chosen. We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² "He commanded us to preach to the people. He told us to give witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets give witness about him. They say that all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.



The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

He is Risen!

A reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 15 beginning at verse 1.

Christ Rose From the Dead

¹ Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it. ² Because you believed the good news, you are saved. But you must hold firmly to the message I preached to you. If you don't, you have believed it for nothing.

³ What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. ⁴ He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be. ⁵ ***He appeared to Peter. Then he appeared to the 12 apostles. After that, he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at the same time. Most of them are still living. But some have died.*** ⁷ He appeared to James. Then he appeared to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, he also appeared to me. I was like someone who wasn't born at the right time.

⁹ I am the least important of the apostles. I'm not even fit to be called an apostle. I tried to destroy God's church. ¹⁰ But because of God's grace I am what I am. And his grace was not wasted on me. No, I have worked harder than all the other apostles. But I didn't do the work. God's grace was with me. ¹¹ So this is what we preach, whether I or the other apostles who preached to you. And that is what you believed.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 20 beginning at verse 1. Praise and Glory to God.

The Tomb Is Empty

¹ Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. ² So she ran to Simon Peter and another disciple, the one Jesus loved. **She said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!"**

³ So Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running. The other disciple ran faster than Peter. He reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there. But he did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived. He went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there. ⁷ He also saw the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself. It was separate from the linen.

⁸ The disciple who had reached the tomb first also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been. One of them was where Jesus' head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said. "I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴ Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. So she said, "Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, "Rabboni!" Rabboni means Teacher.

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me. I have not yet returned to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.



CHURCH RETREAT: AFTER KARAKIA NEXT SUNDAY, 12 APRIL, 2015 FOR REST OF AFTERNOON.

HUI AMORANGI AGM 2015: FRIDAY, 08 MAY TO SUNDAY, 10 MAY, 2015.