Dear Ones in Christ,

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

I greet you in our risen Lord this special Easter Day! Let us hear God’s Word for us.

Today’s Lectionary ready is Psalm 118:1-2;14-24

(The Gospel readings are John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10)

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

14 The LORD  is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. 15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD  does valiantly; 16 the right hand of the LORD  is exalted; the right hand of the LORD  does valiantly." 17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. 18 The LORD  has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. 20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the LORD  has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The first Easter morning this is the only Scripture that would have existed of today’s Lectionary readings. The other readings so familiar to us that we like to on Easter had not been written.

The women at the tomb were not recalling this passage when they couldn’t find Jesus’ body. They were confused and afraid. Yet, I imagine as they and the disciples reflected later on their experience of seeing the risen Christ that Psalm 118, which is a Song of Victory, would come to mind.

Easter is God’s doing. It’s not about what we humans have created to celebrate this day. And now, more than ever, maybe we have time to focus on what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do. It is indeed marvelous in our eyes.

THIS is the day the LORD has made! This day! This Easter! This coming back to life! This risen Christ! This day in the midst of COVID-19. This moment!

We are called to rejoice and be glad in it! May each one discover news ways to rejoice and be glad for Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed.

Rev. Janice Stamper