

**Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!**

Alleluia!!

*... "They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where
they have laid him."*

John 20:13

March 31, 2024

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—EASTER DAY

Death is Swallowed Up in Victory
March 31, 2024

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

*Power of the Cross Trinity Choir
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*

FESTAL SERVANT PROCESSION

AS WE GATHER

At last! The day of Easter is finally here! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The darkness of death is now overwhelmed by the light of Christ's resurrection victory. Satan stands defeated, and death is destroyed. The enemy no longer has power over Christ Jesus, nor does he have claim over your life either! As you bow in faith before Jesus and rise to sing your praises to Him this Easter morning, may the joy of this day inspire you to find joy in your Savior every day. New beginnings start at the empty tomb, and there is no better way to begin our Easter celebration than in the morning hours of the day, joining together to sing the praises of Him who died yet was raised to life again. "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 118:24

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

INVOCATION

PIn the name of the Father and of the ☩
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

HYMN *“Christ the Lord Is Risen
Today: Alleluia!”LSB 463*

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way;
Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled,
Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- 3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life,
Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife.
Alleluia!
- 4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay;
Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PWe cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let us therefore give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to one another and to God Himself.

G**Most merciful God, 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 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 on 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.**

PRejoice and be glad! God has not merely overlooked your faults; He has not missed your failures; and He knows the frailty of the human condition. Rather, He became one of us as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours

and your sinfulness itself. Jesus not only paid the penalty; on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed to all the world that He accepted the payment. Your sins are forgiven indeed!

In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen.

☩ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “Jesus Christ
Is Risen Today” *LSB* 457

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross,
Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which He endured,
Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

△4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host,
Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Latin, 14th
cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707–88

Text: Public domain

SALUTATION

PThe Lord be with you.

CAnd also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PLet us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your
only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You
have overcome death and opened
the gate of everlasting life to us.

CGrant that we, who celebrate with joy
the day of our Lord's resurrection, may
be raised from the death of sin by Your
life-giving Spirit;

Pthrough Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.

Isaiah 25:6–9

6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. **8** He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. **9** It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

LThis is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matthew
28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

L Christ has risen from the dead.

G **God the Father has crowned Him with
glory and honor.**

L He has given Him dominion over the
works of His hands;

G **He has put all things under His feet.**

EPISTLE Paul, persecutor of
Christians, is one
of many people who saw Jesus alive after
death. The news is of
primary importance for people of faith.
1 Corinthians 15:1–11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of
the gospel I preached to you, which you
received, in which you stand, **2** and by
which you are being saved, if you hold
fast to the word I preached to you--
unless you believed in vain. **3** For I
delivered to you as of first importance
what I also received: that Christ died for
our sins in accordance with the
Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he
was raised on the third day in
accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and
that he appeared to Cephas, then to
the twelve.

6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

LThis is the Word of the Lord.

CThanks be to God

CHORAL GRADUAL Christians

Celebrate and Sing

Trinity Choir *Lloyd Larson*

HOLY GOSPEL The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.

Mark 16:1–8

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

CGlory to You, O Lord.

1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back--it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” 8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

G**Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ the Lord
Is Risen Today” *LSB* 469

1 “Christ the Lord is ris'n today!”

Saints on earth and angels say;

Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.

2 Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

4 Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

5 Soar we now where Christ has led;
Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

**‘Close Encounters on the Third
Day’ *Mark 16:1-8***

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther's Small Catechism,

Questions 168-169

P How did Jesus rescue (you and) me from death?

C **He put death to death by His own resurrection.**

P What does the Bible teach about Jesus' resurrection?

C **Scripture teaches that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and appeared bodily to His disciples.**

P Where is this written in the Scriptures?

C **It is written in Acts 10:40-41 that ... God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.**

P What testimony of comfort comes us by virtue of Christ's resurrection from the dead?

C **I am comforted by the sheer knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God.**

P And we are comforted in knowing that His teaching is true.

C **I am comforted in knowing that God the Father has accepted Christ's**

sacrifice for the reconciliation of the world.

P And we are comforted in knowing that all who believe in Christ will also rise to eternal life.

C Amen and Amen! It shall be so! Amen

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND SACRIFICIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “He Is Arisen!
Glorious Word” LSB 488

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
O hear what cheer!
Christ victorious,
Rising glorious,
Life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen

asleep. He lives to intercede for us before the Father. With confidence, let us present to God our petitions for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus.

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world, that it may be found without fault at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

☩ For all believers in the Lord Jesus that their lives may testify to His resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

☩ For the peace of the whole world, that a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

☩ For those in positions of public trust in all levels of government, that they may serve justice and promote the welfare and dignity of every person, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

☩ For all who suffer because of poverty, persecution, or sickness, [*especially . . .*], and all others we name in our hearts [*silence*], that they may know the

healing power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For those who grieve because of the death of their loved ones, [*especially . . .*], that through the sure hope of the resurrection of Christ, God would wipe away the tears from their eyes and give them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth God's glory in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For all who come this day to the feast of our Lord's body and blood, that their faith be strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

G Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

G He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

PThe Lord be with you.

CAnd also with you.

PLift up your hearts.

CWe lift them to the Lord.

PLet us give thanks to the Lord our God.

CIt is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PBlessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You did not spare Your only Son, but gave Him into death that we might have life. Though we cannot understand Your love or comprehend eternity, we lift our voices WITH Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, in a chorus of thanksgiving and we pray that You will strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as Your witnesses.

CGive us opportunity, use our gifts, and move us by Your Holy Spirit to tell the news of Jesus' victory over death each day that You give us for loving service.

P Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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.”

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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST 1

Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

PO Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

COur 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“The Lamb” *LSB 547*

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!
Refrain

ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death
makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Refrain

3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness.
Refrain

5 He rose, He rose,
 My heart with thanks now overflows.
 His song prolong
 Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. Refrain

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953

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“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LSB 470

- 1 O sons and daughters of the King,
 Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
 Today the grave has lost its sting!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 That Easter morn, at break of day,
 The faithful women went their way
 To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 An angel clad in white they see,
 Who sits and speaks unto the three,
 “Your Lord will go to Galilee.”
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 That night the apostles met in fear;
 Among them came their master dear
 And said, “My peace be with you
 here.”
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
 That they had seen the risen Lord,

He doubted the disciples' word.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 “My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be.”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he
cried.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not
seen
And yet whose faith has constant
been,
For they eternal life shall win.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

LSB 461

1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence

gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was
dead;

He lives, my ever-living head.

2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly
friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;

He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.

- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.

Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING

PLet us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You
 have refreshed us through this gift of
 life, forgiveness, and salvation.

Strengthen us by this Sacrament to live
 in the startling reality that Christ is alive
 and with us each day until we join
 saints and angels around His banquet
 table; through Jesus Christ, Your Son,
 our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
 forever.

CAmen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

PThe Lord bless you with unexpected joy
 and gladness and keep you in His
 grace.

The Lord look on you, showering you

with His great love

The Lord look on you with favor to
promise you resurrection ✠ and eternity
with Him.

☩ Amen.

DISMISSAL

☩ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

☩ Go in peace as you serve our living
Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Before the Throne of God Above”

VERSE 1

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

VERSE 2

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died
 My sinful soul is counted free
 For God the Just is satisfied
 To look on Him and pardon me
 To look on Him and pardon me

VERSE 3

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
 My perfect, spotless Righteousness
 The great unchangeable I AM
 The King of glory and of grace
 One with Himself, I cannot die
 My soul is purchased by His blood
 My life is hid with Christ on high
 With Christ my Savior and my God
 With Christ my Savior and my God

VERSE 4

I bow before the cross of Christ,
 and marvel at this love divine,
 God's perfect Son was sacrificed
 to make me righteous in God's eyes.
 This rivers depths I cannot know
 but I can glory in its flood,
 The Lord Most High has bowed down
 low,
 and poured on me His glorious love,
 and poured on me His glorious
 love,

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