

He is Risen!



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Easter Sunday ~ April 12, 2020

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
EASTER SUNDAY**

April 12, 2020

WELCOME, IN THE NAME OF THE RISEN CHRIST!

Guests, visitors, and members — we are glad you are here to share the greatest joy the world has ever known, the resurrection of Jesus Christ! May your time with the Lord and your fellow Christians be blessed greatly today as you sing, pray and listen to His Word.

Everyone, please fill out a connection card and place it in the plate during the offering.

NURSERY AVAILABLE We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so that you may see and hear the worship service while attending to your child.

PRAYER REQUESTS If you have an urgent prayer need, you will find prayer request forms in the pews. We are including a time for prayer request collection after the reading of the Gospel today.

(**P**) = Pastor, (**C**) = Congregation, (**A**) = Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Everyone Who Believes”

AS WE GATHER

“Break down the wall that would divide Thy children, Lord, on ev’ry side” (*LSB* 844:2). The resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter morning was the greatest breaking down of walls ever experienced on this earth. In his Gospel account, Matthew tells that there was a great earthquake on that Easter Day. He also records that on the day that Jesus died, the earth shook and rocks were split. God was at work in shaking up the earth at the time of the crucifixion and resurrection of His Son, our Savior. And God is still breaking down walls—walls that divide and separate people. Today we celebrate the forgiveness won for us and all people by Jesus, our all-powerful and victorious Lord.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

PRE-EASTER READING

John 19:40–42 (ESV)

P ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

“Were You There?”



Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

EASTER GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–6 (ESV)

P ¹ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, 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,

C “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”

- P** 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,
- C** **“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.**

OPENING RESPONSES

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

- P** He died for our sins,
- C** **according to the Scriptures.**

- P** He was buried in the tomb,
- C** **according to the definite plan of God.**

- P** He rose from the dead
- C** **and appeared to many.**

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ our Heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains that He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He’s King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him all ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

WELCOME

EASTER RESPONSE

- P** Christ is risen, alleluia!
C He is risen indeed, alleluia!

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.
O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean
and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.
C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.
- P** We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our own
ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.
C Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.
- P** We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, that
there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental
toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.
C Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.
- P** We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the
resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that
is ours in Christ.
C Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.
- P** Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained
servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠
Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
- P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole
spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He
who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.
C Amen.

“I’ve Just Seen Jesus”
G. Gaither/W. Gaither, D. Daniels
Karon Keup, solo

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD OF GOD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 31:1–6 (ESV)

(The Lord has an everlasting love for His people.)

¹“At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be My people.” ²Thus says the Lord: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you. ⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. ⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34–43 (ESV)

(The disciples are witnesses to the risen Lord.)

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. ³⁶ As for the word that He sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

“Easter Medley”

Stan Pethel

Wyatt Brown, trumpet

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1–10 (ESV)

(Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

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

¹ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

EASTER RESPONSE

P Christ is risen, Alleluia!
C He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

SONG

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

(Refrain)

**Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death’s fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!**

For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo;
And in its conquest His might did show. (Refrain)

“Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave;
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done;
Even the battle with sin is won.” (Refrain)

Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. (Refrain)

SERMON

“WE ARE WITNESSES”

Acts 10:34–43
Pastor Jim Sprengle

HYMN

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, Who once was dead; He lives, my everlasting Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above; He lives to rule His Church in love.

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS ADDRESSED

(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)

“I Will Rise”

C. Tomlin, J. Reeves, M. Maher, L. Giglio/Lloyd Larson
Carlyn Staudt & Brad Hall, duo

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we live in a culture of distractions and diversions. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on the things of first importance: Christ's death and resurrection for sinners, for Christ is risen!

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

P Lord, You sent a messenger to proclaim Jesus' resurrection to the women on Easter morning. Inspire us to share the message of Jesus' resurrection throughout the world, for Christ is risen!

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

P We pray for those in need, who are ill and those who mourn... Comfort them with the hope of resurrected bodies that will be ours when Jesus returns, for Christ is risen!

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

P We pray for those who are celebrating... Grant that our rejoicing draw us back to the Good News that Christ is risen!

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

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

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff)*

Our 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.

LITANY

P Easter is here, and the stone has been rolled away.

C **Jesus lives! And our sins are forgiven!**

P The light has dawned on an empty tomb.

C **Jesus lives! And His light shines through our darkness!**

P The resurrected Christ gives us true hope in a life that never ends.

C **Jesus lives! And all doubting is done!**

P The grave is open, and no death can hold us.

C Jesus lives! And death is defeated!

BENEDICTION

P Go home from this place knowing that the risen Christ goes ahead of you. There is no one you will meet, nothing you will face that is beyond the redemptive reach of our risen Lord. Jesus is already at work, so may God bless and keep you as you join Him on His mission. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

Now all the vault of heav’n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heavn’ly blessèd sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace and serve the Lord!
G Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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