

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 4, 2021

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

RETURN AND SEE

The Day of Easter appeals to all of the senses—especially the sense of sight. With joy-filled eyes, we view our place of worship, which has a singular beauty at Easter. We return and see and rejoice. But the greatest visioning of Easter on this holy day is that we are called to come and see the risen Christ. By faith, we see the salvation won for us. This is the feast of victory for our God—and by His grace, once again, we get to view it “up close and personal”!

8:00 & 9:30 BELL CHOIR *“Christ Arose”*

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING SENTENCES

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

C death no longer has dominion over Him.

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

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

C He has put all things under His feet.

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #457 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

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!

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!

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!

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!

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 confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have not put seeing you as our Lord in all matters as our life’s priority. We have not lived at all times filled with charity in all things and toward all people. We have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil you forbid and have not done the good you demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these, our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct our lives so that we serve you in true faithfulness. Grant us to see our Lord more clearly and graciously build your kingdom among us here in every way.

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, and grant you a blessed life on earth and finally a glorious eternal Easter vision of the Savior and life full and complete with Him in heaven forever.

C Amen.

Refrain: *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

INTROIT *Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: v. 1b*

P I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;

C the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

P The LORD is my strength and my song,

C and He has become my salvation;

P Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,

C Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

P You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have
redeemed;

C You have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

P You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,

C the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,

P the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

C The LORD will reign forever and ever.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C and to the Holy Spirit;

P as it was in the beginning,

C is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;

C the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. In love you have given your Son, Jesus Christ, into death for us and raised Him to life again; so raise us from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 25:6–9*

P A reading from Isaiah, the twenty-fifth chapter.

⁶On 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. ⁷And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He 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. ⁹It 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN #461

“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 ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;

He lives all glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 15:1–11*

P A reading from First Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

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, that He was buried, ⁴ 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SONG "Let us Sing for Joy"

Did you hear the news? Jesus loves you so, Jesus loves you so, Jesus loves you so!
Did you hear the news? Jesus loves you so! Let us sing for joy! (Repeat)

Jesus died for you to take your sins away, to take your sins away,
to take your sins away!

Jesus died for you to take your sins away! Let us sing for joy!

Jesus came alive just like He said He would, just like He said He would,
just like He said He would!

Jesus came alive just like He said He would! Let us sing for joy!

Someday we will live in heaven with our Friend, in heaven with our Friend,
in heaven with our Friend!

Someday we will live in heaven with our Friend! Let us sing for joy!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 28:1–10*

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.

SERMON HYMN #474 "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Refrain

Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM!

Refrain

SERMON "Return to the Empty Tomb and See Again!" Matt. 28:1-10

SERMON RESPONSE #488 "He Is Arisen! Glorious Word"

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!

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Lord God, on this glorious day, fill your people with a holy joy and peace at the resurrection of your Son, that we would tremble no longer before the grave but rejoice and live in the truth of your power to save. Lord, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Be with Matthew, our Synod president; John, our district president; our pastors and all servants in Christ's church. Keep them faithful to proclaim and teach to your people and all people the Gospel of your Son's death, burial and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P O Lord, strengthen us to hold fast to the Word preached to us, that receiving it with joy we may take our stand in it and be saved by it. Hinder all who would sow doubt into our hearts, return the wayward to gather with your people, and grant us courage to confess the truth of your Word in our life and conversation. Lord, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Bless Joseph, our president, and all who make and administer our laws. Frustrate the forces of evil, and do not let our leaders cooperate with them or further their goals. Guard our armed forces as they stand watch for us at home and abroad and bless all first responders. Let them serve with honor and integrity. Lord, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Have mercy on the sick and those in any need especially Janine, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Arlene, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Let the dawning light of the new creation in Christ and the hope of resurrection sustain them in faith. In accord with your will, grant them renewed health — a foretaste of their eternal healing in Him. Lord, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P We give you thanks and praise for the gift of life given to all people, along with all the earthly blessings we enjoy. We especially thank for Norma Strand as she celebrates her 91st birthday. Give us all joy in the gift of one another. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give us joy in your Son's great victory feast as He shares it with us from this altar. In the eating of His true body and the drinking of His precious blood in faith, overcome our sin by His forgiveness and swallow up our death in His life, that we may be glad and rejoice in His salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Comfort those who mourn with the truth of Christ's empty tomb, that in the midst of their grief they may abide in the hope of His resurrection. Bless especially Crystal Barry and her family upon the death of her father, Reynold, and comfort also the family and friends of John Barber. Uphold them in faith as they await the day when you will wipe every tear from all faces. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We join today in singing eternal alleluias with innumerable angels in festal gathering, with the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and we bring these petitions before you, dear Father, trusting in your mercy; through the merits of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING Offering plates will be in the narthex and by the elevator to collect your gifts as you leave today.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, our God, for in Christ you have given us the victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Pour out upon us the gift of your Spirit, that we receive your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in your eternal kingdom. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN #507

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Stanzas 1 & 4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P With joyful praise, Lord God, we bless you this day for having sent your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be the perfect sacrifice so that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Grant that our lives know the peace that surpasses all understanding. Invited by your grace, grant that we come to your Table with grateful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, that we live with confidence, securely awaiting the eternal feast with all the saints in glory.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

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.

P O 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION *Wait for the usher to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.*

HYMN#475 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

HYMN #480 "He's Risen, He's Risen"

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

HYMN #463 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia”

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!

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!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

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!

COMMON DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for you have once again fed and nourished us at your Table through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us, so that we continue to be your holy people who share your love with all people as we await your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

RECESSIONAL #466 “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 under go; And in its conquest His might did show.

Refrain

The angel said to them, “Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there.”

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

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors 8:00, 11:00

Director of Parish Music

Instrumentalists

St. Paul’s Bell Choir

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Noah Kegley

Marc Stefanic, Jim Laux

Michelle Prince

Volunteers from Congregation

Acknowledgments Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by per mission. All rights reserved.

Alleluia!
Christ is Risen!