

Worship Guide
April 4, 2021



EASTER GREETING *Text adapted from the ancient Easter Vigil service*

Pastor: Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels! Rejoice now, all creation!

Congregation: Sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.

Pastor: Rejoice, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King.

Congregation: This is the day when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.

P: So we worship this glorious morning in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son † and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

C: Alleluia! Amen!

EASTER HYMN OF PRAISE

(Jesus Christ is Risen Today CW 157)

♪ **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!**



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: O God, like the first witnesses of the resurrection, we too, come to the empty tomb with a variety of responses. We hear the good news that Jesus has risen, but so often the evidence for this is difficult to detect in our lives.

C: Forgive us when we fail to make the risen Christ evident through our words, our actions - our lives .

P: We confess our slowness to respond to the stone rolled back in our lives,

C: Forgive us O risen Savior!

P: As we come to the empty tomb seeking forgiveness for all our faults and shortcomings, help us to re-order our priorities so that we put the risen Christ first in our lives at all times.

C: Forgive us when we forget that the tomb is forever empty because Jesus is alive and with us every day.

P: Help us always to remember the costly act of Jesus Christ which led to victory over sin and death, an act which gives us the gift of a new beginning - guilt free and graced by love. The tomb is empty because Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed!

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God has heard your confession and speaks peace to you in Jesus' name. 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.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

Refrain

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

P: Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation And on that day you shall say, "Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his name."

Refrain

P: Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

Refrain

P: Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.



The Easter Account

A compilation of the Gospel Accounts

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

P: Behold the light of the world!

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

RESPONSE:

**♪ I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my everliving 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.**

“When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” The angel said to the other women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. Here you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

**♪ 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.**

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

**♪ 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.**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**♪ 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!"**

EASTER MESSAGE OF HOPE

TEXT: REVELATION 7: 9

After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOUR NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN!



CONFESSION OF FAITH

Martin Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

(He's Risen, He's Risen CW 143)

**♪ He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened Death's prison, the Incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song,
And, earth, sea, and mountain, the praises prolong.**

**Oh, 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,
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.**

EASTER RESPONSE OF FAITH

P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

C: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

P: Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but will all be changed—

C: in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

P: For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed.

C: For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality.

P: When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

C: Death has been swallowed up in victory.

P: Where, O death, is your victory?

C: Where, O death, is your sting?

P: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law.

C: But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN:

(This Joyful Eastertide CW 160)

♪ **This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain.
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now is Christ arisen.**

**Death's flood hath lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain.
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now is Christ arisen.**

**My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain.
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now is Christ arisen.**

EASTER PRAYER (responsive)

P: Great God of victory and life, the very earth celebrates your triumph.

C: Because Christ has risen, sin and death have no power to hold us in the grave.

P: Help us leave behind, like empty grave clothes, all sin and fear and failure.

C: Help us step forth, full of courage into a new day, a time of victory over every temptation.

P: We ask this in the name of him, who lived, who died and who has risen again,

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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 today 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

THE LORD'S BLESSING

HYMN:

(The Day of Resurrection CW 166)

**♪ The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;
The passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.
Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy shall have no end.**