

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—EASTER DAY

Life Come Forth from Death!

March 31, 2024

9:00 & 11:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

Those who followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem had hopes and fears, but their experience was within what they expected. So, Isaiah’s prophecy of “Death swallowed up” was one of those things that didn’t seem to apply, it went beyond expectations! And the news from the angel at the tomb went far beyond that! Life after death challenged every understanding so directly that the women were startled into fear-driven silence—at least for a time. That very day others would hear the news and soon many would see Jesus Himself, as Paul tells us in the Epistle. ***Today is a day to embark on a life based on the startling new reality that death is not the final word for anyone with faith in Christ.***

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME AND FELLOWSHIP GREETING

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24*

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

**People: The Light that no darkness can overcome!**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

**People: The Light that brings us victory over death.**

Pastor: Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation:

**People: Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.**

Pastor: Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Christ both here and around the world!

**People: Our Lord has kept all God’s promises!**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

**People: let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!**

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN #461 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” Sung with Choir

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.

*Choir He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;*

*Only 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!

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We cannot enter God’s presence without Christ’s victory. 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.

**People:** 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.

**Pastor:** Rejoice 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 in Jesus, whose cross paid for every sin of yours and the whole world. 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.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

☩ WORD ☩

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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**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.

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Let 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.

**People:** Grant 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;

**Pastor:** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

(Be seated)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 25:6–9* (When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.)<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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."

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**9:00 BELLS** "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

**11:00 CHOIR** "Our Hearts Rejoice This Day"

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 15:1–11* (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.) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,<sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for

<sup>4</sup> continued

our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**9:00 BELLS** *“At the Lamb’s High Feast”*

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 16:1–8* (The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.<sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.<sup>3</sup> And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”<sup>4</sup> And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.<sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.”<sup>8</sup> 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON HYMN #465 “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!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph;

Grant grace sufficient for life’s day That by our lives we truly say:  
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Rise) Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav’nly blessed 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!

## SERMON “The Paradox of Life Coming Forth From Death” Mark 16:1-8

(Rise)

### OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

### NICENE CREED

**People: 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.

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

**9:00 VOLUNTARY CHOIR** *“Our Hearts Rejoice This Day”*

**11:00 VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN** *“Antiphonal Alleluia”*

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who suffer because of poverty, persecution, or sickness, especially Chris, Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Jim, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Helga, June, Shirley, Sarah and all others we name in our hearts, that they may know the healing power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who grieve because of the death of their loved ones, 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.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, grow in loving graciously, and show forth God’s glory in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

☩ **SACRAMENT** ☩

### **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

#### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise you on this day for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

#### SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed 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 in thanksgiving and pray you to strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as your witnesses.

**People: Give 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.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: 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

**People: 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

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI

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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.

(Be seated)

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

##### HYMN #4667 "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!

(Rise) 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!

#### **HYMN #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**

#### **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**

#### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

#### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let 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 announce this gracious Good News so that many may join us at the Lamb's high feast; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN #478 "The Day of Resurrection"

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lector  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Jim Laux  
JoLynn Bender

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