

Order of Service

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

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Opening Hymn: ELH 352 vs. 1-2

"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!**

Invocation

P: The Lord is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

P: We worship in the name of God the Father who created us, God the Son who died for us and rose again, and God the Holy Spirit who brought us to faith and new life in Christ.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Confession of Sins

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P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sins:

C: We confess, dear Savior, that often we live only for ourselves. Forgive us! Let us die to sin and be raised to a new life in you, through your triumphant resurrection.

P: Jesus has carried our sins in his own body. His sacrifice is complete. He has won the victory! As a called servant of the risen Lord and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: We are forgiven! We have been restored to a new life in Christ. Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day:

P: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Jonah 2: 2-9

(Jonah prays to God from within the fish that had swallowed him. Jesus makes it clear (Mt 12:40; 16:4; Lk 11: 29-32) that Jonah's "entombment" within the fish is a type of his own entombment. Just as the Lord heard Jonah and delivered him, so also Jesus did not remain in the prison of the tomb, but was raised to life.)

² He said the following: In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From the belly of the grave I cried out, and you heard my voice. ³ You threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas. The currents swept around me. All your breakers and your waves swept over me. ⁴ I said, "I have been driven away from your sight. Nevertheless, I will once again look toward your holy temple." ⁵ Waters engulfed me so that I was near death. The deep surrounded me. Seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I

sank down. The earth locked me behind its bars forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O Lord, my God.

⁷When my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord. My prayer came to you, to your holy temple. ⁸Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the mercy that is theirs. ⁹But I, with a shout of thanksgiving, will indeed sacrifice to you. What I have vowed, I will certainly pay in full. Salvation belongs to the Lord! (EHV)

Psalm 118 (EHV)

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

C: For his mercy endures forever.

P: Under pressure I cried to the Lord.

C: And he answered by setting me free.

P: It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in people.

C: It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in human benefactors.

P: My strength and song is the Lord,

C: And he has become salvation for me.

P: Loud shouts of victory are heard in the tents of the righteous:

C: "The right hand of the Lord has done a mighty deed!"

P: I will not die. No, I will live,

C: And I will proclaim the works of the Lord.

The Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3: 1-4

(Paul draws the connection between the life of the believer and the life of Christ. As Christ has been raised and is seated at the right hand of God, so believers should set their hearts on things above.)

¹Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in

God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (EHV)

Hymn: ELH 341 vs. 1

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

**Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious Sun.
My Savior there was laid, Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.**

The Easter Gospel: Matthew 28: 1-10 (EHV)

(Matthew recounts the resurrection appearance of the Savior to the women who had gone out to the tomb early Easter morning. Since Jesus has “risen just as he said” we can have confidence in all of what Jesus said. We can have confidence in all of the promises in His word and derive a new life of hope and joy and strength from His Word.)

P: After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

C: Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men.

P: The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!”

C: They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

P: Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” They approached, took hold of

his feet, and worshipped him.

C: Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

The Confession of Faith:

(Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' 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.

Hymn: ELH 346 vs 1-2 “*Death is Dead, the True Life Liveth*”

**Death is dead, the true Life liveth!
O'er the portals of the grave
Life's great Sun bright-shining giveth
Light our darkened souls to save:
Christ arisen bursts our prison;
See His triumph-banners wave.**

**Life's own King on Calv'ry dying,
Wins a crown of life for me;
E'en the grave to Him complying
Flow'rs in life abundant free;
Death's chill sadness changed to gladness—
This the Easter victory!**

Sermon: Revelation 19:11-16 *“Our Victory Is in Christ”*

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war in righteousness. ¹² His eyes are like blazing flames, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him, which no one knows except he himself. ¹³ He is also clothed in a garment that had been dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies in heaven, which were clothed with white, clean, fine linen, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will shepherd them with an iron staff. He himself is going to trample the winepress of the fierce anger of the Almighty God. ¹⁶ On his garment and on his thigh this name is written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

(EHV)

Hymn: ELH 351 vs. 1-3, 5-8

"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 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;
O the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Offering Prayer

*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.*

Easter Prayer of the Church

P: Almighty and everlasting God, Lord of life and death, we praise you this day for what you have done:

C: This is the day when you showed your great power and raised your Son, Jesus, from the dead.

P: You have transformed the night of doubt and sorrow into the new and eternal day of joy and gladness.

C: You have brought life and immortality to light by the glad tidings that Christ is risen. For this, O Lord, we give you thanks.

P: You have delivered Your Son, who died for our sins, from the grip of death and raised Him by Your power.

C: That which You sowed in dishonor and weakness, You raised in power and glory.

P: O God, we praise You that through Him You removed death's sting for us.

C: You have brought us victory over the grave.

P: Fill our hearts with the joy of the resurrection.

C: Grant to Your Church the power of the resurrected Christ.

P: Help us to show forth your praises.

C: Use our lives in your service. Give us willing hearts to talk about You to people we know.

P: Send the conquering banner of Christ's victory into all the world.

C: Grant that many more nations may join the hosts of heaven in songs of triumph.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With joyful hearts we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The 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 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.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELH 345 vs. 1, 6

“Christ, the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!”

Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!

Christians, haste your vows to pay; Alleluia!

Offer ye your praises meet Alleluia!

At the Paschal Victim’s feet. Alleluia!

Hail, eternal Hope on high! Alleluia!

Hail, Thou King of victory! Alleluia!

Hail, Thou Prince of Life adored! Alleluia!

Help and save us, gracious Lord. Alleluia!