

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 31, 2024 - 8:30 AM



EASTER SUNDAY

Welcome, Guests and Members!

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

PRE-WORSHIP

**"Dancing In Your Freedom"
"Because He Lives"**

Announcements and Welcome

P: Christ is Risen!

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

OPENING WORSHIP

*Processional Song **"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (He Is Not Dead)"**

(Turn to face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)

*Invocation, Confession and Absolution

P: On the morning of our Lord's Resurrection, the women approached the tomb in fear. When an earthquake rumbled and an angel descended, the guards shook with fear. Coming before a Holy God in worship today, we have every reason to be afraid. Just as our gracious God sent an angel that first Easter morning to say, "Do not be afraid," so the same words are spoken to our hearts this morning. Our gracious God invites us to come into His presence, acknowledge our fears, confess our sins and receive the peace of Christ's Easter victory. Almighty God,

C: **we confess that we have let earthly matters cloud our vision, dim our joy,**

and close our lips. We have failed to view Your victory and grace through the message of Your Holy Word. Instead, we have relied on our own limited understanding and feared what could happen. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as much as we have loved ourselves. In Your great mercy, forgive us. By Your Holy Spirit, assure us of Your victory over sin, death and the power of the devil on our behalf. Inspire us to share Your resurrection victory and to live our lives to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Friends in Christ, upon the confession of our sins, God has good news for us. Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death for you and me. He willingly went to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha to pay the price our sins deserved. In Christ's death and resurrection, God forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Therefore, as a servant of the Word, I forgive you all of your sins, in the Name of the Father and the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Easter Song of Praise

"Living Hope"

(Please be seated.)

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED AND EXPLAINED

1st Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

2nd Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 28:1-10

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message and Dismissal for Children's Church (ages 4-8)

The Message

"The Last Easter"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

(Please stand.)

***Our Confession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed, The Second Article—Redemption**

(The Apostles' Creed is one of the early faith statements of the Christian Church.

Today we only recite the Second Article which talks about Jesus. The "What Does This

Mean?" was written by Dr. Martin Luther as a tool for fathers to teach their children about Jesus.)

P: What is the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed?

C: I believe 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 on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

P: What does this mean?

C: 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, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, 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, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

***Prayers of the Church**

***HOLY COMMUNION**

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

*Agnus Dei "Lamb of God"

Songs during Distribution

"Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)"

"In Christ Alone"

"Behold the Lamb"

***CLOSING WORSHIP**

*Benediction

*Recessional Song **"Happy Day"**

**The greatest day in history
Death is beaten You have rescued me
Sing it out Jesus is alive
The empty cross the empty grave
Life eternal You have won the day
Shout it out Jesus is alive, He's alive**

Chorus

And oh happy day happy day You washed my sin away
Oh happy day happy day I'll never be the same
Forever I am changed (2X to Bridge)

When I stand in that place
Free at last meeting face to face
I am Yours Jesus You are mine
Endless joy perfect peace
Earthly pain finally will cease
Celebrate Jesus is alive, He's alive (Chorus)

Bridge

Oh what a glorious day What a glorious way
That You have saved me
And oh what a glorious day What a glorious name (Chorus)

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*DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in Easter peace and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sunday, 8:30AM - WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

The Preacher	The Rev. Brendon T. Moore
The Celebrant	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
The Liturgist	Vicar Mark Esser
Musical Worship Leaders	Members of Praise Team
The Elder on Duty	Arlene Adams
The Communion Deacons	Mary Beth Moore, Tammi Straughn, Rhonda Wise
The Lectors	Jon Peterson, Wendy Kirin
The Crucifer	Sadie McIntee
The Banner Bearers	Tony McIntee, Chloe Warschauer
The Robing Leader	Gillian McIntee
The Greeters	Dr. Don & Jan Eason
The Ushers	Arlene Adams, Lisa Coffey, Dr. Don Eason, Jerry Juergens, Gail Knippenberg

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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