



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

**MARCH 31, 2024
6:30 AM**

THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 118:1, 5-7, 14, 17, 22-24 & John 14:19)*

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

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

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever!

People: **Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

Pastor: Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.

People: **Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

Pastor: The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

People: **Because He lives, we shall live also.**

Pastor: The Lord is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

People: **Because He lives, we shall live also.**

Pastor: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

People: **Because He lives, we shall live also.**

Pastor: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

People: **Because He lives, we shall live also.**

Pastor: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

People: **Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

Pastor: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: **Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: **Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endures forever.

People: **Amen.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Hymn 457

**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!**

***CONFESION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: On this day we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the grave. We also remember why Christ went to the grave. We acknowledge that our sins were the reason for His suffering and death. And so we confess those sins to God and seek His mercy.

People: **Most merciful God, it is our sins that put Jesus on the cross. It is because of our transgressions that His lifeless body was placed in the tomb. We confess our guilt and acknowledge the gravity of our sin. For the sake of Christ crucified and risen from the dead, forgive our iniquity and restore us in righteousness. Through the power of His resurrection, enable us to walk in newness of life, to the glory of Your holy name.**

Pastor: We cry to You for mercy.

People: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Hear the good news! God's Word declares that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (*Romans 4:25*). In the mercy of Almighty God, His Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and justifies you, making you holy in His sight. His mercy endures forever because His love for you is steadfast.

People: **Amen.**

***EASTER SONG**

"In Christ Alone"

Getty, Townend

**In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Job 19:23-27

²³“Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, ²⁴that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! ²⁵I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Lector: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Lector: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***THE GOSPEL**

Mark 16:1-13

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

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

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And 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. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸And 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. ⁹Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. ¹²After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

***THE SERMON HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**

Hymn 465

**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!**

THE SERMON

“Astounded!”

THE SONG OF RESPONSE

Hymn 461

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (vv. 1-3, 7-8)

**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 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!**

***THE PRAYERS**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:
Gracious Father, in Your great compassion, You accepted the sacrifice of Your Son, who suffered death on behalf of our sin. In His glorious resurrection, You raised Him to life again; and by many proofs, He revealed Himself alive, that we may know the favor You have for us through Him.

People: By Your Word and Spirit, strengthen us in the true faith, that our trust in You may be confident and never be put to shame.

Pastor: Merciful God, through Christ our Savior, You won salvation for people of every nation, tribe, race and language. Grant that the Easter Gospel of Your Son may have free course, that the good news of Your salvation in Christ Jesus may be preached, heard, believed, and confessed throughout the earth.

People: By Your mercy, send forth Your Holy Spirit, that all sinners may be brought to repentance and faith, refreshed in hope and love, delivered from death and the devil, and led into everlasting life and salvation.

Pastor: Living Lord Jesus, by Your death You destroyed the power of death, and by Your resurrection You opened the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in Your name.

People: We ask that You grant mercy and hope to all those who face death and give comfort to all who mourn the loss of loved ones, that they may be strengthened by Your resurrection and confidently look to You for the resurrection of our bodies and the life of the world to come.

***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.

***THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who sent His Son to certain death in order to give us life, the Son, who left the tomb open on this day of His rising, and the Holy Spirit, who graciously enables us to be messengers of the resurrection—be upon you, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

***THE RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Hymn 477

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow’rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!**

***THE DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in Easter peace and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PARTICIPANTS

The Preacher
The Liturgists
The Keyboardist
The Vocalists
Elder on Duty
The Crucifer
The Robing Leader
The Ushers

The Rev. Charles T. Reich
The Rev. Brendon T. Moore, Vicar Mark Esser
Sandy Hulse
Mariah Braddy, Paige Esser, Peggy Jo Griffin
Roger Walker
Olivia Zinsmeister
Betsy Zinsmeister
Howard Neitsch, Karen Nelson, Chris Zinsmeister



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