

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

## *Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!*

April 12, 2020

The Festival of Easter is the high point of our faith and worship life. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims victory over sin's most dreaded consequence - death.

Silent prayer in preparation for worship: O God, for my redemption you have given your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection you have delivered me from the power of the enemy. Therefore grant that all my sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day I may arise anew to live before you in righteousness and purity forever. Amen.

**The Announcement**      *adapted from 2 Timothy 1:10 & Psalm 118*

- L** Christ is risen! Alleluia!
- C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- L** Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!
- C** **And has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Alleluia!**
  
- L** The Lord is my strength and my song. Alleluia!
- C** **He has become my salvation. Alleluia!**
- L** I will not die, but live. Alleluia!
- C** **I will proclaim what the Lord has done. Alleluia!**
- L** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**
  
- L** I will not die, but live. Alleluia!
- C** **I will proclaim what the Lord has done. Alleluia!**
- L** Christ is risen! Alleluia!
- C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um-phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare your praise.

**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**L** Since we have gathered to hear God's Word, let us consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive me my sins, and lead me to everlasting life. Amen.

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Introit** Exodus. 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: Exodus. 15:1b

- L** I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
- G** **The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation;**
- L** Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
- G** **You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;  
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.**
- L** You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,  
the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode,
- G** **the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.  
The Lord will reign forever and ever.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

### Kyrie

- G** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### Collect of the Day

- L** 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. 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

### Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup>So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

- L** Christ has risen from the dead.
- C** **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,**
- L** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- C** **he has put all things under his feet.**

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Verse of the Day**

Alleluia. Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

*2 Timothy 1:10b*

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
 2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
 3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.  
 The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
 And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.  
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
 Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
 In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
 The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;  
 For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;  
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.  
 For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
 He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.  
 With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

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### Devotional thoughts:

This is a remarkable and amazing Easter. It is the first time in my entire life that I am not in church on Easter. This may be true for you as well.

When I entered into retirement, I knew I would greatly miss proclaiming God's word on Christmas and Easter. After all, these are the two great festivals of the church year. Yet as events developed last year, God granted me the opportunity to once again announce from a pulpit the breathtaking news delivered by an angel in an empty tomb, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said."

Little did I know that just twelve short months later, you and I, along with millions and millions of Christians around the world would be confined to our homes on this Easter morn.

In my opinion, it is a myth that churches are filled on Christmas and Easter because of Christians who only attend church on Christmas and Easter. Of course some of these do exist.

For more than 40 years, God granted me the privilege of looking out on the congregation on Easter to see chairs filling the aisles and sometimes filling the narthex with an overflow of worshipers. It is natural to think, "Where are all these people the other Sundays of the year?"

However, after serving Christ Lutheran for more than 32 years, I began to recognize almost all the people on Easter morning. Yes, there were a few who only came on Easter but that is not what filled the church. The congregation is made up of people from all different backgrounds, living under a variety of circumstances. All these faithful sincerely desire to be in the Lord's house to celebrate His resurrection.

As a result, those who attend every Sunday are joined by those who must work on most Sundays. Those who attend every other week join those who attend every other month. Many return to their homes from hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away to worship on Easter. The homebound and those living in assisted care facilities are brought by loved ones to sing once again, "I know that my Redeemer lives."

We all join together to hear and say, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" We are filled with joy that because He lives, we too shall one day live with Him forever in paradise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Yet on this Easter, God is providing an occasion for us to think about those who sincerely desire to be in the Lord's house on Easter and every Sunday of the year, but cannot. We remember the sick and those in prison. We remember doctors and nurses. We remember soldiers and sailors. We remember law enforcement and fire fighters. We remember employees of all types. We remember those living in countries where Christians are forbidden to gather. We remember Christians who face punishment and execution for simply being Christians.

When God again grants us the ability to worship together, let us remember in prayer those who desire to be with us but cannot.

However, let us also remember that Easter is not lilies and colored eggs. Easter is not great organs and large choirs. Easter is not eloquent sermons and stirring liturgies. Easter is not pretentious vestments and great processions. Easter is not elegant gowns and graceful beauty. Easter is not chocolate bunnies and baskets of goodies.

Easter is the resurrection of our Lord. In history, it took place in Jerusalem. Today, it takes place in our hearts. In the swirling waters of baptism, you were made dead to sin and alive to Christ. In repentance, your resurrection is new each day.

Nothing can take that away from you! On this Easter Jesus speaks clearly to us in the words first spoken to the Samaritan woman at the well, "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him" (John 4:23).

Wherever you are on this Easter and all the Sundays and Easters to come, let your spirit be filled with joy in the knowledge of the resurrection. For one day just as Jesus was raised from the dead, you too shall rise!

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.

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -  
 2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is  
 3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus  
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
 giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,  
 liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,  
 sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er  
 Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is  
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will



scenes will then com - mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.

Jesus lives! And now is death  
 But the gate of life immortal;  
 This shall calm my trembling breath  
 When I pass its gloomy portal.  
 Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:  
 Jesus is my confidence!

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**L** Let us pray. O this holy day of the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord we rejoice at the perfect healing of body and soul that awaits us in our resurrection and in the life of the world to come. In our present distress we pray that in Your way, in Your time, and according to Your will that you would give healing and strength to those who are sick, protect those who care for them, and grant us steady minds and calm hearts in the face of fear. Comfort and protect those we hold dear in our hearts and especially those who are far from us. Keep us in this faith and embolden us in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** 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.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

**I Know That My Redeemer Lives** Lutheran Service Book 461, Lutheran Worship 264, The Lutheran Hymnal 200

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to  
this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort  
once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 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!

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**Service Notes:**

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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