

# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD— EASTER DAY

**Says Who?**

**March 31, 2024**  
**8am**



## AS WE GATHER

When Isaiah wrote about God’s plans in terms of a feast, people may have wondered, “Says who?” The prophecy wasn’t clear, and the resurrection of Jesus was still centuries in the future. If the women at the tomb decided to tell someone later, they might not have been believed. But today’s Epistle includes a list of those who did hear and see Jesus Himself, including Paul, who had persecuted the church. We are here because untold millions of our brothers and sisters heard God’s Word, came to faith, and couldn’t keep the news to themselves. Who told you? Whom will you tell? And if anyone asks, “Says who?” invite them to join us in worship to hear for themselves.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME & GREETING

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

**Pastor:** The light of Christ!

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor:** All of you choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us:

**People:** **Rejoice at Christ’s 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!**

**HYMN**                      “The Day of Resurrection”                      *LSB 478*

**1** 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.

**2** 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.

**3** 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!

**4** 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!

**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 as we are. 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 as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours and your sinfulness itself. 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** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” *LSB 457 (vss. 1,2,3)*

**1** 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!

**2** 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!

**3** 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!

#### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**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.

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

**Pastor:** Christ has risen from the dead.

**People:** God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

**Pastor:** He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**People:** He has put all things under His feet.

**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.)

Lector: The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

*Left Side: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,*

*Right Side: that He was buried,*

*Left Side: that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

*Right Side: and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*

*Left Side: Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

*Right Side: Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

Lector: Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 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. Whether then it was I or they,

**People: so we preach and so you believed.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN** “Christ Is Arisen” *LSB 459*

- 1 Christ is arisen; From the grave’s dark prison. So let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!
- 2 Were Christ not arisen; Then death were still our prison. Now, with Him to life restored, We praise the Father of our Lord. Alleluia!
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Now let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!

## **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.**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

**LSB 465 (vss. 1,2,3)**

- 1** 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!
- 2** 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 still all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 3** 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!

**SERMON Pastor Matthew Kusch**

## CATECHISM

### *The Second Article*

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

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People:** I believe that Jesus Christ,

*Women:* true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,

*Men:* and also true man, born of the virgin Mary,

**People:** is my Lord,

*Women:* 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;

*Men:* not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

**People:** 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.

## 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 . . .*], and all others we name in our hearts [*silence*], 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, [*especially . . .*], 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, 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!**

**OFFERING**



## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### **PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

**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:

### **HYMN**                    “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”        **Sts. 1, 4: LSB 940**

**1** Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee. All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee. Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

**4** Thou art King of glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary. For us sinners sacrificed, As to death a Tributary, First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

### **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** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

**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:

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

**HYMN**                      “The Lamb”                      **St. 5: LSB 547**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong Till  
ev’ry heart to Him belong. Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”                      **LSB 470**

1 O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing, Today the  
grave hath lost its sting! Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

2 That Easter morn, at break of day, The faithful women went their way, To seek  
the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

3 An angel clad in white they see, Who sits and speaks unto the three, "Your Lord  
will go to Galilee." Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

4 That night the Apostles met in fear; Among them came their master dear  
And said: "My peace be with you here." Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard, That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see, And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be." Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

8 How blest are they that have not seen, And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days, Be laud and jubilee and praise: To God your  
hearts and voices raise. Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

***LSB 487***

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain; Of triumphant gladness! God has brought  
His Israel, Into joy from sadness. Loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke; Jacob's sons  
and daughters, Led them with unmoistened foot; Through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst His prison, And from three days'  
sleep in death; As a sun has risen; All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is  
flying; From His light, to whom is giv'n; Laud and praise undying.

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright; With the day of splendor, With the royal feast  
of feasts, Comes its joy to render; Comes to gladden faithful hearts; Which with  
true affection; Welcomes in unwearied strains; Jesus' resurrection!

4 For today among His own; Christ appeared, bestowing; His deep peace, which  
evermore; Passes human knowing. Neither could the gates of death; Nor the  
tomb's dark portal; Nor the watchers nor the seal; Hold Him as a mortal.

5 Alleluia! Now we cry; To our King immortal, Who, triumphant, burst the bars  
Of the tomb's dark portal. Come, you faithful, raise the strain; Of triumphant  
gladness! God has brought His Israel; Into joy from sadness!

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (p. 164 in hymnal)

***Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanks giving. Alleluia, alleluia.***

**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** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**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.

**HYMN** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" **LSB 461 (vss. 1,2,3,8)**

1 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.

2 He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save; He lives all-  
glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

3 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.

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!

## **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.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.