

EASTER SUNRISE

The Light of Christ

April 4, 2021 – 6:30 am



AS WE GATHER

The words used at the beginning of Evening Prayer are most appropriate for reflecting the theme of this early morning Easter service: “Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.” We are Easter people this day—people of the resurrection who are walking in the light of Christ. Joining our voices in praise at this, the earliest service of our Christian Year, is truly fitting. With the words of Evening Prayer, we pray to our victorious Lord: “Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.” The day of resurrection is just beginning! Let us keep the feast with sincerity and truth!

HYMN

“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done” LSB 464

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!
The strife is o’er, the battle done;
Now is the victor’s triumph won:
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!
The pow’rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!
The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!
He broke the age bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!
Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned Him.**

Pastor: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands.

People: **He has put everything under His feet.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, 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: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

INTROIT

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

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

People: **The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

Men: Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

*Women: You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;
You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.*

*Men: You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain, the place, O LORD,
which You have made for Your abode,*

*Women: the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established. The LORD will reign forever
and ever.*

People: **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.**

**I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.**

HYMN

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia” LSB 463

**Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Hail, the victim undefiled. Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 15:1–11

(The miracle of the saving of the Israelites at the Red Sea crossing)

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 5:6b–8

(The death of Christ and the promise of the resurrection)

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:1–18

(The risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the

body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" *LSB* 467

**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 foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.**

**This is a sight that gladdens What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.**

**Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright:
It is a pow'rless form. However it rave and storm.**

**The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play. And night is bright as day.**

**Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lod will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.**

**He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Ne has died Shall here be glorified.**

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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 \times everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

EASTER CELEBRATION SEQUENCE

Incorporating LSB 459–460

Pastor: Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer your thankful praises!

People: **The Lamb the sheep has ransomed: Christ, who only is sinless, reconciling sinners to the Father.**

Men: *Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.*

HYMN

“Christ Is Arisen” St. 1: *LSB 459*

**Christ is a risen From the grave’s dark prison.
So let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!**

Pastor: “Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw when wayfaring.”

Women: *“The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
Bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting.
My Lord, my hope, is arisen; to Galilee He goes before you.”*

HYMN

“Christ Is Arisen” St. 2: *LSB 459*

**Were Christ not arisen, Then death were still our prison.
Now, with Him to life restored.
We praise the Father of our Lord. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.

People: **Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia.**

HYMN

“Christ Is Arisen” St. 3: *LSB 459*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Now let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!**

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: We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, almighty and eternal Father, through Jesus Christ, whose death upon the cross has made possible the forgiveness of our sins and accomplished our salvation. Open the eyes of faith that we, who confess the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may be delivered from death and brought into the light of Your presence forevermore. Recalling Thomas and how our Savior met him in the prison of his doubt, we rejoice that You have come to us this day with the voice of the Gospel upon our ears and soon the taste of our Lord's body and blood upon our lips, in anticipation of the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom without end. With Thomas and the witnesses of our Lord's resurrection and all the saints and angels on high, we join in their unending hymn of praise:

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy" LSB 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy Lord, mighty Father, everlasting God, You made us and all things, and You continued to love us when we had chosen our own path into sin and its death. When, in our weakness, we were unable to save ourselves, You brought forth Your own Son in flesh, and on the cross He accomplished our redemption. O Lord, we here commemorate our Lord's death as He has commanded, receiving according to His promise His flesh in this bread and His blood in this cup. Make us worthy to receive Him as He comes to us here in this Holy Communion.

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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“This Joyful Eastertide” LSB 482

**This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life the morrow:
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!**

**Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver:
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!**

**My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber;
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty Father, Your patience toward us is great, and Your love is without limit. Grant to us grace that we, by the forgiveness of our sins, be kept holy and pure to the day of Christ’s coming again, when we shall stand before the judgment seat on high; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

EASTER AFFIRMATION

Romans 6:5, 9

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Pastor: We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: **death no longer has dominion over Him.**

Pastor: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His,

People: **we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe. In love You have given Your Son, Jesus Christ, into death for us and raised Him to life again; so raise us from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit. Grant that the light of Christ shine in our hearts now and forever; through Jesus Christ, 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.

**He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**

**But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**