

EASTER SUNRISE

The Empty Tomb

April 16, 2017 - 8 o'clock, a.m.



AS WE GATHER

Jesus lives! Death and the grave could not hold Him! Easter changes everything! Here we see the guarantee that our sins have been forgiven and Satan eternally defeated. In faith, we believe Christ's resurrection ensures our own, and we hold to the blessed assurance that all who have died in the Lord will rise on the Last Day. By faith, we are able to look beyond this broken world and even beyond death and the grave because of Christ's empty tomb discovered early that first Easter Day. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

The sanctuary lights are dimmed as worshipers enter. The pastor starts the service from the back of the sanctuary as Easter sunrise worship begins, drawing back to the events and somber mood of the close of Good Friday and leading to the women's early morning walk to the tomb. The sanctuary lights are turned on at the proclamation of Christ risen for us right before the processional.

† PREPARATION †

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING GOSPEL

Mark 16:1–8

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

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

P: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 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. 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.” 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Lights are turned on.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

LSB 457

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!

4 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!

Public domain

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 118:1, 24

P: All praise to God the Father—

C: who raised His Son in victory.

P: All praise to Jesus, God's Son, risen from the dead—

C: our living and reigning King.

P: All praise to God the Holy Spirit—

C: who has worked in us a living hope in the resurrection.

P: The stone has been rolled away! Alleluia!

C: The crucified One is risen! Alleluia!

P: He has conquered death by the cross!

C: He has come out of the tomb!

P: Easter proves it: His every word and His every deed are absolute truth.

C: Every promise He has made He will fulfill. He will restore His broken people. He will raise us and make us whole again.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day that the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

† WORD †

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM “See What a Morning” by L. Shackley
Mass Immanuel Choirs directed by Ken Wright

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

P: As we gather early on this Easter morning, we're drawn back to that first Easter early in the morning when the women walked to the tomb burdened by grief, hopelessness, and uncertainty. They would soon be awakened by the angels' presence and words, and the surprise of light and true life found in the empty tomb. As Scripture still speaks to us today in our times of grief, hopelessness, and uncertainty, we also encounter the light and true life of our Lord through His Word pointing to, centered on, and fulfilled in our Savior Jesus Christ. In Exodus, we hear Israel cry out to the Lord for rescue. In 1 Corinthians, Paul reminds the people then and us now of Christ's resurrection witnessed by more than five hundred people. In the Holy Gospel, we hear again how Mary Magdalene came in darkness to the tomb and found the surprise of the risen Savior.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 14:10–15:1

Through the Lord's power, Moses leads God's people as they cry out for deliverance.

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." ¹⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." ¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians." ²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the

Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. ¹Then 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

With the risen Christ witnessed by many, Paul shares how Easter changed everything for his life and for all.

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

2 Timothy 1:10b

C: Alleluia. [Christ Jesus] abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:1–18

The resurrection of Jesus

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

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

¹Now 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. ²So 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." ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They 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." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CATECHISM

1 Corinthians 15:17; Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

P: Paul writes, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” Because of this, Easter morning delivers the joyous truth that Christ has been raised, and God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in His work accomplished for us.

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 at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will 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 all 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY I Know That My Redeemer Lives

- Choir 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.
- ALL 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.
- Men 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.
- Women 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- Choir 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.
- All 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.
- Choir 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.
- All 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!

Public domain

SERMON

A Place to Remember
“If not - - then what - -but now”
1 Corinthians 15:17-20,22

OFFERING

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”
Celebration Handbells directed by Kristy Fogelsinger

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

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. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With humble thanksgiving, we acknowledge how our Lord Jesus became our servant, and how He took our place in suffering and rose again that we may be saved. Lead us to know with joy the gift of forgiveness, new life, and salvation in our daily lives. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

P: We lift up all who are sick and in need, that they may know the blessing of God’s healing and care, *especially* For those who are approaching the end of their earthly lives and those who mourn loved ones and the sting of death, let them see through tears of the grave Christ’s empty tomb: faithful hope remains in the resurrection of all flesh as Christ Himself has conquered eternal death. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional petitions can be added. Each prayer ends with the words “Risen Lord, in Your mercy,” and the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”)

- P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- C: **With humble and sincere hearts, we acknowledge before You, O Lord, that we are not the people we ought to be. We have sinned against You and against one another in words and deeds and inaction. We confess these sins to You and plead for Your mercy through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us by Your Spirit to amend our sinful lives.**
- P: Easter changes everything. It is the world's new reality. Still, there are times when we live as if Easter were only a wish. We live too often as if brokenness were the only reality. We live as if the stone had not been rolled away.
- C: **Lord God, the Easter reality is all around us. And yet, in spite of the truth of the resurrection, we so often live trapped in brokenness. We are defeated by Satan's temptations, deceived by the world's false hope and lies, and worn down by the battle against our own sinful flesh. Forgive us and renew us, Lord.**
- P: Easter declares the great truth: the victory over Satan, the world, and our own flesh has been won. Jesus Christ who died for you has risen. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, our enemies of sin and death have been eternally conquered. You are forgiven from every failure and every sin. Because brokenness and death could not hold Jesus, you are made whole. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, it is my joy and privilege to proclaim the Easter truth and daily joy that you are forgiven in the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
O hear what cheer!
Christ victorious,
Rising glorious,
Life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!

Public domain

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9–13)

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.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord, who hears the cries of all who mourn, bless you and keep you. The Lord, who raised Jesus from the grave as the firstfruit of His new creation, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord, who calls you to take hold of that which is truly life and to look up and see His bountiful grace, mercy, and forgiveness, look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ref **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

All: 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Refrain

Choir: 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.
Refrain

Men: 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
Refrain

Women: 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.
Refrain

Interlude

All: 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
Refrain

© 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no.
100012683.

© 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no.
100012683.

POSTLUDE

From *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish*, Series A, Part 2. Copyright ©
2016 Concordia Publishing House. Modified for use at Immanuel Lutheran
Church & School, Bay City, Michigan. All rights reserved. Used by permission.