

# Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

## Today from the life of the church

Because for our sake you tasted gall, may the Enemy's bitterness be killed in us. Because for our sake you drank sour wine, may what is weak in us be strengthened. Because for our sake you were struck with a rod, may we receive shelter in the last. Because for our sake you accepted a crown of thorns, may we that love you be crowned with garlands that can never fade. Because for our sake you were wrapped in a shroud, may we be clothed in your all-enfolding strength. Because you were laid in the new grave and the tomb, may we receive renewal of soul and body. Because you rose and returned to life, may we be brought to life again. Amen.

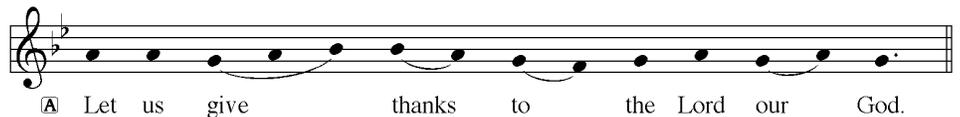
Communion Hymn  
(Fifth Century)

## Service of Light

### EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice now all heavenly choirs of angels and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King, know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world. Be glad, also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples. Wherefore, dearly beloved, who stand in the clarity of this bright and holy light, join with me, I ask you, in praising the lovingkindness of almighty God; through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ; who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin. For this is indeed the Paschal Feast in which the true lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy. This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them dry-shod through the Red Sea. This, indeed, is the night in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness. This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness. This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. For it would have profited us nothing to be born had we not also been redeemed. O, how wonderful the condescension of your lovingkindness! O, how inestimable the goodness of your love, that to redeem a slave you delivered up your Son! O necessary sin of Adam that is wiped away by the death of Christ! O happy fault that was worthy to have

so great a Redeemer! O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell! This is the night of which it is written: “and the night is as clear as the day;” and, “then shall my night be turned into day.” The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.

*The assisting minister will fix five grains of incense in the candle.*

Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O holy Father, this evening sacrifice of praise; which the Church lays before you in the solemn offering of the candle. We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished, even when its light is divided and borrowed. For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle. O night truly blessed, in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May he who is the morning star find it burning—that morning star which never sets, that morning star which, rising again from the grave, faithfully sheds light on all the human race. And we pray, O Lord, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole Church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

**FIRST READING** *Genesis 1:1—2:4a*

**RESPONSE** Psalm 136 (*Sung responsively*)

Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

**Give thanks to the | God of gods,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.**

Give thanks to the | Lord of lords,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;

**who alone | does great wonders,  
or God’s mercy en- | dures forever;**

who by wisdom | made the heavens,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;

**who spread out the earth up- | on the waters,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;**

who made | the great lights—  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;

**the sun to gov- | ern the day,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;**

the moon and the stars to gov- | ern the night,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;

**who remembered us in our | low estate,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;**

and rescued us | from our enemies,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever;

**who gives food | to all creatures,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.**

Give thanks to the | God of heaven,  
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

*Silence for meditation*

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our death, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SECOND READING** *Exodus 14:10–31, 15:20–21*

*Silence for meditation*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**THIRD READING** *Ezekiel 37:1–14*

*Silence for meditation*

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**FOURTH READING** *Daniel 3:1–29*

## Renewal of Baptismal Vows

### THE EXHORTATION

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: In this most sacred night, Holy Mother Church commemorates the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ. In return for His great love, she lovingly keeps watch with Him. And looking forward to His glorious resurrection, she rejoices with an exceeding joy.

But, as the Apostle teaches us, we have by baptism been buried with Christ into death. As Christ, then, has risen from the dead, so we too must walk now in newness of life. For we know that our old self has been crucified with Christ, that we may no longer be slaves to sin, but are to live for God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, having completed the Lenten observance, let us now proceed to renew the promises of our Holy Baptism. By these promises we once renounced Satan and all his works, as well as that world which is the enemy of the Holy catholic Church.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**We will, with God's help.**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize. Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Now may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: make you perfect in every good work to do God's will; working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING OF WATER**

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, now sprinkled upon us in remembrance of our Baptism.

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through Jesus' own baptism in the Jordan, you join have joined us to his death, that we may live with him in his resurrection. Therefore, may this water be for us a remembrance of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Repeat three times.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed!**





slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord of light and life, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. By the Spirit's baptismal gift, renew your holy church in true and faithful service that your people may shine with Christ, the Light of the world who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LESSON** *Romans 6:3-11*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MUSIC AT THE GOSPEL PROCESSION** (Hymns #371/#372)

*The Gospel Book is carried in procession around the nave. As the procession makes its way down the center aisle, the congregation stands to honor Christ.*

Choir: Christians, to the paschal victim offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeeming: Christ, who only is sinless, reconciling sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous; the prince of life, who died, reigns immortal!

**Congregation:**



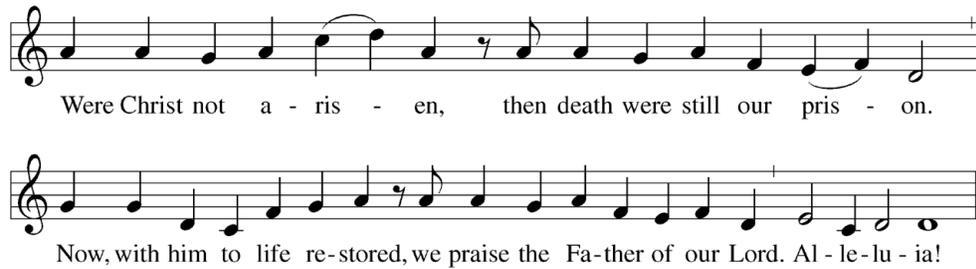
Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on. So let our joy rise



full and free; Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Choir: Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw when wayfaring. "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."

**Congregation:**



Were Christ not a - ris - en, then death were still our pris - on.  
Now, with him to life re-stored, we praise the Fa-ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

Choir: Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen.

**Congregation:**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia! So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 28:1-10*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #362** At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

...Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *(Sung by all)*



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be  
thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our  
dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,  
as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us  
not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.  
For thine is the king- dom, and the pow- er, and the  
glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

**Sending**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**HYMN #365** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Toccata (from Organ Symphony No. 5) | Charles-Marie Widor

**Luther Memorial Church staff**

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The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, *Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, *Visitation Pastor*

Addison Arndt, *Faith & Vocation Fellow*

Sarah Brinkman, *Office Coordinator*

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The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, *Presiding Bishop*

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