



This Is the Day!

Easter Worship 2024
March 31, 2024

As We Gather

At last! The day of Easter is finally here! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The darkness of death is now overwhelmed by the light of Christ's resurrection victory. Satan stands defeated, and death is destroyed. The enemy no longer has power over Christ Jesus, nor does he have claim over your life either! As you bow in faith before Jesus and rise to sing your praises to Him early this Easter morning, may the joy of this day inspire you to find joy in your Savior every day. New beginnings start at the empty tomb, and there's no better way to begin our Easter celebration than at the break of day, joining together to sing the praises of Him who died yet was raised to life again. "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Opening Sentences

Psalm 118:24

- 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.**

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on the promises of God's Word.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **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.**
- P** As we bow before You in faith this day, we take refuge in the mercy You provide for us through Your Son's victory over sin, death, and the grave.
- C** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Enliven us by Your Spirit. Fill our hearts with joy that we may walk by faith this day and always to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has raised Christ from the dead and crowned Him with glory and honor. Because the risen King has conquered death and delivered us from our sins, we stand forgiven in His sight. As your pastor, it is my joy this Easter morning to forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Introit

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

- P** I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
- C** **the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.**
- P** The LORD is my strength and my song,

- C** and He has become my salvation.
- P** Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,
- C** Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
- P** You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;
- C** You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.
- P** You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain,
- C** the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your abode,
- P** the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.
- C** 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.
- P** I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
- C** the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

Kyrie

- P** Risen Redeemer,
- C** have mercy upon us.
- P** Conquering King,
- C** have mercy upon us.
- P** Victorious Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** grant us Your peace.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You defeated death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.
- C** Take away all gloom and sadness, and fill us with the joy of His resurrection victory;
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1–8

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

Creed

Apostles' Creed

- 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.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray. Gracious Father, You have made this day to be a day of rejoicing! As Your sons and daughters, we rejoice before You as we stand at the empty tomb of Your Son. Much like the ancient children of Israel rejoiced before You after You led them through the Red Sea and drowned their enemies who pursued them, we praise You for the deliverance You have given us from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. You provide well, O God, for all of our needs of body and soul, and we entrust the cares of our personal lives, our families, our community, and our congregation to You. Because Jesus lives, victorious over death and the grave, we are confident that there is no obstacle that can ever keep us from experiencing the life and love You give. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and fill us with Your joy!**
- P** Conquering King, by Your rising to new life from the grave on Easter morning, You shattered the rod that oppressed us and the burden that weighed us down. You lifted the curse of death from our backs and set us free from the chains that once had bound us. Risen Redeemer, because You have set us free, we are free indeed! Help us to live in the freedom, joy, and peace of Your resurrection victory. Satan has no authority over us because we have been named and claimed by You in the water of Baptism, which unites us to Your saving death and resurrection. Because You live, we shall live also—now, by faith, and on the future Day of resurrection, we shall live face to face with You in Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and fill us with Your joy!**
- P** Renewing Spirit of truth, grant joy to all who receive Your Word this day. With hearts restored and minds at peace, help us to cling to Jesus and hold fast to His promises. We pray for all who are sick and troubled, weary and downtrodden... Be their sure defense and help them to know that nothing can ever sever them from You, O Lord! All we need, You will dispense, for Jesus is our confidence. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and fill us with Your joy!**
- P** Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayer

- P** 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 Your Spirit to serve as Your witnesses.
- C** **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.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

Closing Sentences

Psalm 118:23–24

- P** This is the LORD's doing;
C it is marvelous in our eyes.
P This is the day that the LORD has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Benediction

- P** 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.
C Amen.

Dismissal

Psalm 118:24

- P** The light of Christ!
C Thanks be to God!
P All of you choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us:
C Rejoice at Christ's victory over death.
P Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation:
C Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.
P Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Christ both here and around the world!
C Our Lord has kept all God's promises!
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. Alleluia!

Easter Acclamation

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Acknowledgments

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