

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for the Sundays of Easter
April 4, 2021

Topic: The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday

Time: Sunday, April 4, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324470555?pwd=Z3dCRVpwSlpjaTRZXQvRHpmaUhXdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555

Password: 0000

Use your telephone to call this number and enter the ID and Password.

You will be able to speak and to hear the service.

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Introduction to the Day: Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

PRELUDE: *Vreuchten (This Joyful Eastertide)*

Jan Bender; *John Anderson*

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Reverend Johnson

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We thank you, risen Christ, for the waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

- 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 you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Marschhausen

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast of Victory for Our God

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain* ...
2. Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain* ...
3. Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain* ...
4. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Final Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The First Reading – Acts 10:34-43

Reader from Concordia

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality," ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he

went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Reader from St. Mary's leads

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,**
“God's mercy endures forever.”

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**
“The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

¹⁶The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,**
and declare the works of the Lord.

¹⁸The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;**
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰“This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**
and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the Lord has this been done;**
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Second Reading – First Corinthians 15:1-11

Reader from Concordia

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if

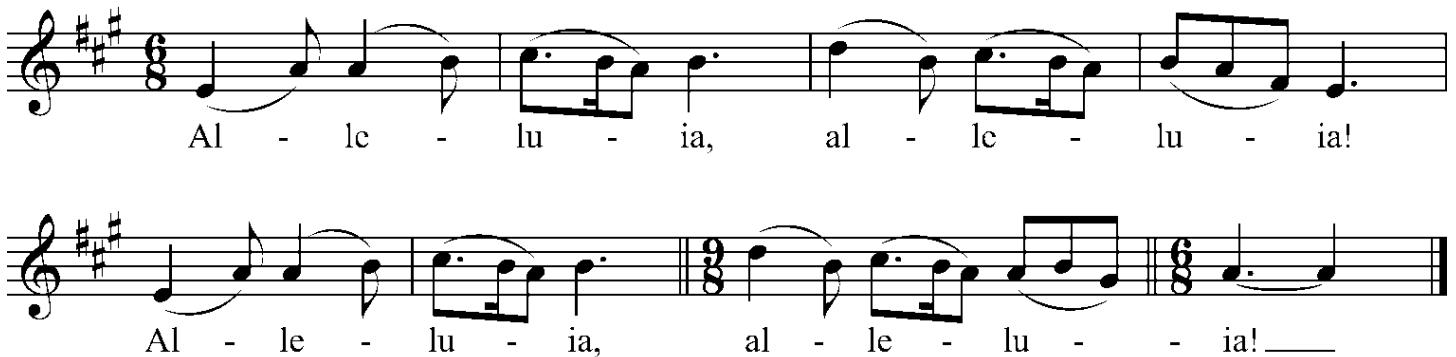
you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and 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 and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 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, unfit 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 has not been 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 proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Celtic Alleluia



The Holy Gospel – John 20:1-18

Deacon Winzler proclaims the Gospel...

This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed 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.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who 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 returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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 Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because 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.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!*

1 Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.

Refrain

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

2 Christ is risen! All the sadness of our Lenten fast is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending see him rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending, glory round his wounded brow. *Refrain*

3 Christ is risen! All the sorrow that last evening round him lay
now has found a glorious morrow in the rising of today.
See the grave its first-fruits giving, springing up from holy ground;
Christ was dead, but now is living; he was lost, but he is found. *Refrain*

4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased;
hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast. *Refrain*

HOMILY

Pastor Marschhausen

A Moment for Reflection

NICENE CREED

Reverend Johnson

Together with all the people of God, let us confess our faith:
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Leader from St. Mary's

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Lord Jesus Christ, your glorious resurrection from the dead is the crowning proof of your redeeming and saving work. We give thanks that your obedience to the will of God, even to death on the cross, has crushed the power of Satan, and purchased salvation for all people. Accept our praise and thanksgiving for the power of your victory, that they may be joined with those of saints and angels, and the whole church on earth and in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All powerful God, we pray for the Church of Jesus Christ, your own creation. Continue to inspire the Church, its leaders and its people to be witnesses to Christ's resurrection in a world that is becoming increasingly more indifferent. Give to the Church conviction in its proclamation of Christ crucified, risen and ascended, that all may receive the forgiveness of sins in His name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you, Lord Jesus, for having endured the awful pangs of death on the cross for the remission of our sins. Forgive us for our preoccupation with our own concerns, and help us to endure, with patience, the crosses and challenges placed before us, knowing that you, having endured all for our sake, are always with us. Make us glad that you, who died for our sins, also rose again for our justification and that because you live, we shall live also and that death has no power over us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, fill our hearts with the joy of the resurrection. Bestow your grace upon our homes, and bless them with the joy and celebration of Easter. Send forth the conquering banner of Christ's victory into the entire world, that nations may join the host of heaven in songs of triumph knowing that Jesus has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray that your healing presence may touch the lives of all in need: those in need of food and shelter; the homebound, the institutionalized, those in crisis; those struggling to meet the demands of life, those confronting challenges of faith, the sick and suffering; the unemployed; those to whom death draws near; those who mourn. Grant to all who call upon you a sure confidence in the certainty of your gracious compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, we pray for our communities of faith at Concordia and St. Mary's. Let the radiant beams of Easter's light shine into the depths of our souls. Renew us by the Spirit of him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene. May we long to be God's sign of life in our daily lives. Fill our hearts with Easter's precious promise of new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we celebrate the feast of our Lord Jesus' resurrection with all your people here on earth just as those who have gone before us faithfully kept the feast for over two thousand years. Keep us, like them, steadfast in our faith that, with hope and confidence, we may look with eager anticipation to that time when we ourselves will appear before your throne, to celebrate with joy that Paschal Feast of the Lamb which shall never end. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear, Lord God, the petitions of your people. We ask this through the merits of our Crucified and Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS *Intercessions and Thanksgivings follow...* *Reverend Johnson*

Now I invite your prayers for all the needs of the world God so loved, silently or aloud.

After each petition we pray, Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Pastor Marschhausen

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; *N.* and *N.* God mercifully grant you the riches of grace, that you may please God both in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

Reverend Johnson

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Marschhausen

Preface to the Prayer: *On Maundy Thursday, we remember the last supper that Jesus ate with his friends, which has become for us the Holy Eucharist. Today, once again, we can remember the last time we received Holy Communion, and look again to receive this gift, together, in the future. And so we pray:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am baptized into your death and resurrection.

I seek you daily. I worship and adore you.

Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine,

I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul,

as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness,

through the proclamation of your holy Word,

and through the prayers of your people;

that I may remain united to you

by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace.

Be for me the manna in my wilderness,

the bread of angels for my very human journey through time,

a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,

and solace in the hour of my death.

And return us all, Lord Jesus, to your Holy Table when this is over.

I pray all this, trusting that you are our life,

our peace, and our everlasting joy. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reverend Johnson

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Pastor Marschhausen

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you favor and give you peace

In the name of the Father, and of the Son  , and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!

1 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!

- 2 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!
- 3 Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
when contending death and life, Alleluia! met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- 4 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!

DISMISSAL

Deacon Fedorchak dismisses the assembly

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the Easter good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE: *Carillon-Sortie*

Henri Mulet; *John Anderson*

NOTES:

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DAILY READINGS FOR APRIL 4-9

Monday, April 4

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:1-19
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Thursday, April 7

Psalm 133
Daniel 1:1-21
Acts 2:42-47

Tuesday, April 5

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:20—2:4a
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Friday, April 8

Psalm 133
Daniel 2:1-23
Acts 4:23-31

Wednesday, April 6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Song of Solomon 3:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Saturday, April 9

Psalm 133
Daniel 2:24-49
John 12:44-50