

Easter Sunday

Order of Service for April 12, 2020

INTRODUCTION BY PASTOR

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: With our Lenten journey completed, following Jesus in his suffering and death for us, our alleluias return.

C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

M: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain

C: To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

M: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

C: Be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" 166 CW

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Our loving heavenly created us to enjoy life with him. But in the Garden of Eden, our first parents disobeyed God and brought death into the world. The Bible says, "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his love to forgive us.

C: Almighty God, heavenly Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful. We have sinned against you every day by our thoughts, words and actions. We have failed to love you above all else. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. We deserve nothing but your punishment of death and damnation. But "in your great mercy you have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Therefore, we confidently pray: Lord, have mercy.

M: "As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. Jesus' perfect life, innocent sufferings and death, and glorious resurrection assure us that all our sins are removed completely. As a called servant of the Word and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson - Jonah 2:2-9

² He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³ You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴ I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' ⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God. ⁷ "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. ⁸ "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. ⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD."

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

HYMN "The Strife Is O'er; the Battle Done" 148 CW

SERMON

EASTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles Creed)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, 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. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EASTER SUNDAY

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

C: Christ is risen!

M: For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C: He is risen indeed!

M: He was delivered over to death for our sins, and raised to life for our justification.

C: Alleluia!

M: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power which raised him from the dead.

C: We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death and the grave.

C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

M: With the church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

C: You are risen!

M: Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

C: You are risen indeed!

M: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the baptismal joy of our salvation.

C: Alleluia!

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

C: He is risen!

M: As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

C: He is risen indeed!

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia!

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN "This Joyful Eastertide" 160 CW

CLOSING VERSES AND BLESSING

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: The open tomb proclaims his victory.

C: Death no longer has dominion; life will reign eternally.

M: Why do you look for the living among the dead?

C: He is not here; he is risen!

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.