

AS WE GATHER

The day of Easter is finally here! 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!** Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+ WORSHIP THE RISEN ONE! +

633 AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING

sts. 1, 5–6

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!
- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

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 at the break of 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!**

633 *AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING*

sts. 7–8

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!

This alone can sin destroy;

From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,

Newborn souls in You to be.

Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.

Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.

Text: Public domain

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 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.**

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 15:1–11 NIV

¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

²“The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. ³The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. ⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea. ⁵The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

⁶Your right hand, Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, Lord, shattered the enemy.

⁷“In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.

⁸By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹The enemy boasted, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.’

¹⁰But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 5:6b–8 NIV

Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:1–18 NIV

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

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

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus

loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said,

“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

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.**

465 NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds

In praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift He brings,

Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Now still He comes to give us life

And by His presence stills all strife.

Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 4 Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

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MESSAGE **New Beginnings Start At The Empty Tomb!**

480 HE'S RISEN, HE'S RISEN

1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

- 2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.
- 3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.
- 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
- △ 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.

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OFFERING

490 *JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON*

sts. 1–2

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!

From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.

Text: Public domain

OUR PRAYERS

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!**

490 *JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON*

sts. 3–4

3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt. Text: Public domain

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, [*especially . . .*]. 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!**

490 JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON

st. 5

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.

Text: Public domain

P Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord, who remembers us in His kingdom and teaches us to pray:

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

478 *THE DAY OF RESURRECTION*

1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light
And, list'ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that has no end!

△ 4 All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory
Ascribe to God alone!

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.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

463 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 Hail, 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!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.

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