



## **EASTER SUNRISE**

St. John's Lutheran Church + Hastings, MN

April 4, 2021

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Good Morning and a blessed Easter to you! What a joy it is to worship the living Lord with you! *A little bit about this early morning worship...*

The Easter Sunrise service has long been an historic tradition within the Christian Church. Dating back to, perhaps, even the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, Christians would gather together late on *Saturday night* in an "Easter Vigil" (waiting and watching) to eagerly celebrate Jesus' Resurrection the next day. At midnight, the congregation would break out in a loud cry, "He is Risen, Alleluia!" That's the reason for how quiet it is this morning ~ we're waiting together for Jesus' tomb to burst open with his blessings and our praises!

The Easter Sunrise service is a lasting remnant of that Easter Vigil from long ago. It was often a time to remember baptism's blessings and the close connection we have to Christ's death and resurrection through baptism. So this morning, we will celebrate our Savior's Resurrection by focusing on what it means for us today, and our eternal future. May the Lord bless us as we worship Him!

### **Why Do we Celebrate Easter:**

The truth we celebrate today has the highest importance for all of our lives. God says the meaning of Easter is simply this:

- + Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead is God's proof to us that he has accepted Jesus' life and death as payment for our sins. We are freely forgiven because of Jesus.
- + Jesus Christ's resurrection gives us new purpose as we live to glorify God.
- + Jesus Christ's resurrection assures us that God will one day raise us from the dead to live before him in a perfect world.
- + Jesus Christ's resurrection is God's proof that the Christian faith is the true faith that he wants all people to know and believe.

## An Easter Celebration of Readings and Songs

### OUR OPENING PRAISE: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*Christian Worship 157, v. 1,2*

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!

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!

**L**eader            Christ is risen!  
**C**ongregation    He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**L**    This is the day the Lord has made;  
**C**    let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**L**    The Lord's right hand is lifted high.  
**C**    The Lord's right hand has done mighty things.

**L**    I will not die but live,  
**C**    and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**L**    The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,  
**C**    The Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes.

**L**    This is the day the Lord has made;  
**C**    let us rejoice and be glad in it.      (*Psalm 118, selected verses*)



### OUR RESPONSE: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*Christian Worship 157, v. 3,4*

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!

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!

## The Empty Tomb

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**A**fter the Sabbath, early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

Very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. And they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus had driven seven demons, saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 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!"

When the other women entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay. 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.

Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " Then they remembered his words. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

### **FAITH'S RESPONSE: Morning Breaks upon the Tomb**

*Christian Worship #159 v. 1-3*

**Morning breaks upon the tomb;  
Jesus scatters all its gloom.  
Day of triumph through the skies,  
See the glorious Savior rise.**

**You who are of death afraid,  
Triumph in the scattered shade.  
Drive your anxious cares away;  
See the place where Jesus lay.**

**Christian, dry your flowing tears;  
Chase your unbelieving fears.  
Look on his deserted grave;  
Doubt no more his pow'r to save.**

## Peter and John at the Tomb

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**P**eter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. And he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

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." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

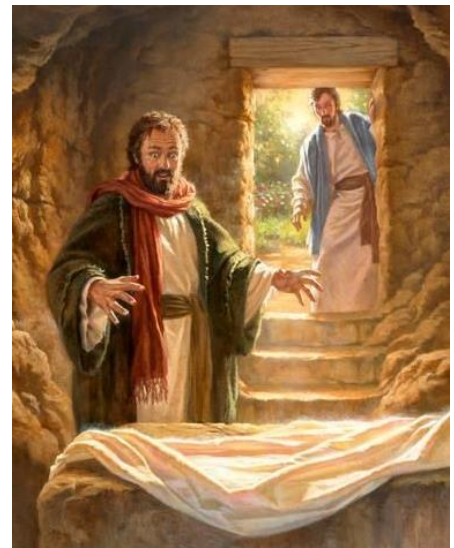
Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

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.



### **FAITH'S RESPONSE: He's Risen, He's Risen**

*Christian Worship #143 v 1-3*

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

**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.**

**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.**

## The Other Women See Jesus

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**S**uddenly Jesus met the other women. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped 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."

Some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

When the women came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

### **FAITH'S RESPONSE: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

*Christian Worship 149 v 1-4*

**1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"  
Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Sing, O heav'ns, and earth, reply.**

**2 Love's redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er;  
Lo, he sets in blood no more.**

**3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.**

**4 Lives again our glorious King!  
Where, O death, is now your sting?  
Once he died our souls to save;  
Where your victory, O grave?**

## The Road to Emmaus

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**N**ow that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions

went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. But they did not believe them either.

### **FAITH'S RESPONSE: Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won**

*Christian Worship 145 v 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 Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.**

**2 Jesus lives! To him the throne  
High o'er heav'n and earth 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.**

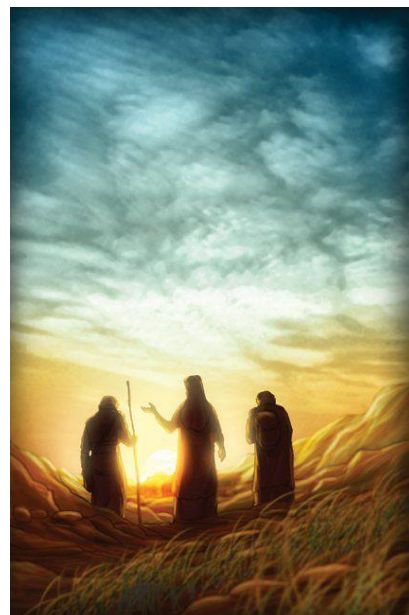
## **Disciples in Jerusalem**

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**W**hile they were still talking about this, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.



Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

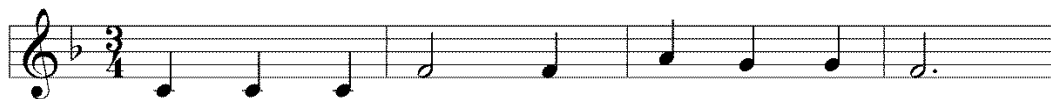
A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### Song of Praise: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

*Christian Worship Supplement 719, vs 1-3*



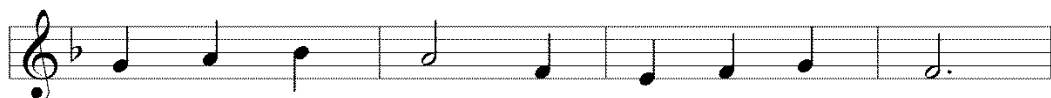
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
He who gives life did death un - der - go.  
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
And in its con - quest his might did show.  
On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."



*Refrain*

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

## **An Easter Meditation**

*Based on Luke 24:1-12*

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## Our Thank-Offering

*"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" - Colossians 3:17*

*Our offerings are both an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church's work. Guests need not feel obligated to contribute.*

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### Ways to Give Electronically

Choose one of 3 Simple, Safe Options for Offering Thanks



- Text "give" to 651-401-1400
  - Go to [www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give)
  - Scan the QR code
- 

## Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

- C** 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT

### The Words of Institution

- L** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## The Distribution

**I Know That My Redeemer Lives**

*Christian Worship 152*

**Awake, My Heart, with Gladness**

*Christian Worship 156*

## The Blessing

- L** 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.

## Closing Song of Praise: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

*Christian Worship Supplement 719, vs 4-5*

**“Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won.”  
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death’s fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia**

**Christ has arisen; he sets us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.  
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death’s fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia**

*Thanks for joining us today! We'd love for you to stay and enjoy some Easter fellowship and Refreshments!*

*We also invite you to join us for our **Easter Festival Service** today at 10:00.*

*All of God's promises, comfort and hope are yours today and forever...because your Savior lives!  
On behalf of Pastor Zimpelmann and family, God grant you a blessed Easter!*


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 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS