Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day
ELW Service of the Word
Sunday, April 12, 2020

GATHERING
Even in this time of physical distancing, the Holy Spirit calls us together in mind and spirit as the people of God.

Set out and light a candle, perhaps the one you used last night at the Vigil. You may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE  All Creatures of Our God and King  - arr. Cindy Berry Jan Carlson

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Jesus Christ is ris’n so day, Alleluia!
2 Hymns of praise than let us sing, Alleluia!
3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
4 Sing we to our God a-bove, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav’nly King, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and gave, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he’s king, Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., st. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMS, J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1786
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

2 Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43
A reading from Acts.

Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

34 Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how 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. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not 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. 42 He 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. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC Amanda Lauritsen — voice

READING: Colossians 3:1-4
A reading from Colossians.

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

1 If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

1After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 

2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 

3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 

4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 

5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 

6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 

7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 

8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 

9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 

10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON
I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

1 I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort gives!
   He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!

2 He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

3 He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

4 He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears; he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives to help in time of need.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.
CREED
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.

*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Dear members of God’s family: on this Easter Day marked by both sorrow and joy, our prayers
for the church, the world, and all in need include both heartfelt lament and fervent praise. The
response to each prayer of mercy will be, “Your mercy endures forever” and the response to each
acclamation of praise will be, “Alleluia! Thanks be to God.”

A brief silence.
God our Sanctuary, we lament that we cannot gather today for public worship, that death stalks the church, and that our sorrows and fears blunt our songs of Alleluia. . . A brief silence.
Show the church your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.

And yet around the globe we praise you for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, for our baptismal washing in his life, for your presence come to us in the word, and for the hope the gospel brings. . . A brief silence.
We praise you for the church: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Creator, we lament that our lifestyles have harmed your creation and that our efforts to repair your earth are now postponed. . . A brief silence.
Show the earth your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.

And yet we praise you for the beauty of the natural world, for springtime flowers and budding trees, for the soil and rain that nourish the crops. . . A brief silence.
We praise you for the earth: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Governor, we lament that war and violence still rage, that countless people suffer injustice, that the plight of refugees seems beyond solution, that appropriate governmental action is delayed and inadequate. . . A brief silence.
Show the world your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.

And yet we praise you that there is peace on our streets, that some elected officials and many aid agencies are devoting themselves to save the people and to share our food, and that we are given connection to friends and family through technology. . . A brief silence.
We praise you for community: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Physician, we lament all who suffer, those we name here before you (especially. . .) but especially we lament the coronavirus and its incalculable suffering, the many thousands sick, the fear instilled, the loss of employment, the cancelation of plans, the overflow in hospitals, the scarcity of supplies, the exhaustion of medical staff. . . A brief silence.
Show all the needy your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.

And yet we praise you for health and well-being wherever it thrives, for the dedication of medical workers, for the goodwill of volunteers, for the generosity of benefactors, and for the comfort we receive from the power of the resurrection. . . A brief silence.
We praise you for healing: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

God our Life Eternal, we lament the thousands dead and the sadness of all who mourn, and we remember before you all who have died in the faith, especially Les Aasheim and Helen Canine. . . A brief silence.
Show to all humanity your mercy: Your mercy endures forever.
And yet here we join in our Alleluias, and we praise you on this Easter Day for your promise of an endless banquet of joyous life in your presence, when disease and sorrow will be no more. . .  

_A brief silence._

In life and death we praise you: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are Source of life, Word of salvation, and Power of mercy, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your compassionate might, for the sake of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  

_Amen._

**PEACE**  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  

_And also with you._

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.  

_Amen._
LORD’S PRAYER
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.

BLESSING
The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Thine Is the Glory

1. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment greet thee, scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness out the stone away, hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now lieth; through thy deathless love, bring us safe through Jordan.

2. Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he rolled the stone away, lap: the folded grave clothes hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now lieth; through thy deathless love, bring us safe through Jordan.

3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught with-where thy body lay, death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring to thy home above. Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!
POSTLUDE  *Toccata for Easter* - arr. Craig A. Penfield  Jan Carlson

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