

# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—EASTER DAY

## AS WE GATHER

The spring of souls. The queen of seasons. The royal feast of feasts. With those colorful phrases the ancient writer John of Damascus, who lived in the eighth century, described Easter Day in a classic hymn text. The Feast of the Resurrection and its importance is difficult to put into words. Everything has been done: Christ has come and has established His kingdom in the world for the sake of the resurrection and the life to come. His saving work is accomplished—and we are the beneficiaries! The action word “go” is central for us this day, as we go in to meet our Lord in worship and go out to share the message of the empty tomb and of the risen Christ, our Lord!



### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN**      “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”      #457 v.1-3

**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!**

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## INVOCATION

**Pastor:**      In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:**      **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**      *Psalm 118:24; Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, adapted*

**Pastor:**      This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**People:**      **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead. Alleluia!  
People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;  
People: **He has put all things under His feet. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.  
O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean  
and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our  
own ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation,  
that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and  
judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have  
not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family,  
neighbors, and friends and beyond.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the  
resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that  
is ours in Christ.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and  
ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and  
of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole  
spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He  
who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

People: **Amen.**

**4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

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✠ WORD ✠

**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**      *Acts 10:34–43*      (The disciples are witnesses to the risen Lord.)

**Pastor:** <sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living

and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *2 Timothy 1:10b*

People: **Alleluia. Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Jeremiah 31:1–6*  
(The Lord has an everlasting love for His people.)

Pastor: “At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

<sup>2</sup>Thus says the LORD:

“The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup>Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines  
and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

<sup>5</sup>Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.

<sup>6</sup>For there shall be a day when watchmen will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:

‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God.’”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**    *Psalm 16*

**People:**    **Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.” As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let Your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**EPISTLE**    *Colossians 3:1–4* (Our lives are hidden with Christ in God.)

**Pastor:**    If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Pastor:**    This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**    **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *Matthew 28:1–10* (Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.)

**Pastor:**    The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

**People:**    **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see

him. See, I have told you.”<sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.<sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, **“Greetings!”** And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, **“Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”**

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” #465

**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 heavn’ly 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!

## SERMON



## CREED *Apostles' Creed*

**People: 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

That the Church would live out its calling and that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be joyfully celebrated in all places, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** That the nations of the world find peace with justice in our time, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** That the abiding blessing of God rest upon our families, our neighborhoods, our places of business, and our schools, including . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That those whose confession of the true faith leads to bodily peril or other sufferings know relief and deliverance from every danger, let us pray of the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That all whose labor adds meaning and beauty to the life of the Church—the musicians, artists, craft workers, flower arrangers, and others—find joy and blessing in all that they do to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That all those whose lives know specific challenges, including those who are ill and those who mourn, including . . . that they would know heavenly benediction and strength for each day, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the memory of the faithful departed be held in reverence and honor by all of us as we await a time of resurrection and reunion at the close of the age, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked on this day of holy rejoicing, grant to us, Lord, for the sake of our risen Savior Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**



## **BENEDICAMUS**

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** 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.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*

**People:** **Amen.**

**HYMN** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” #477

**1 Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:**  
**Sing to God a hymn of gladness,**  
**Sing to God a hymn of praise;**  
**He who on the cross a victim**  
**For the world’s salvation bled—**  
**Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,**  
**Now is risen from the dead.**

**2 Alleluia, Christ is risen!**  
**Death at last has met defeat:**  
**See the ancient pow’rs of evil**  
**In confusion and retreat;**  
**Once He died, and once was buried:**  
**Now He lives forevermore,**  
**Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer,**  
**Whom we worship and adore.**

**3 Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Glory be to God on high:**  
**Alleluia to the Savior**  
**Who has gained the victory;**  
**Alleluia to the Spirit,**  
**Fount of love and sanctity!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia**  
**To the triune Majesty!**

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*He is Risen!*



*He is Risen Indeed!*