



Easter is not merely a Sunday but a season. While it is difficult to sustain the enthusiasm and excitement of the Easter Sunday liturgy, our hope is not diminished even by the reality of our doubts and fears. Jesus stands among us through Word and Sacrament confronting those doubts and fears and reminding us "because He lives, we will live also" This is the inheritance which belongs to God's people and this is the baptismal promise given to all who believe.

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

SHARING OF PEACE: Wherever we are let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

THE OPENING HYMN: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (LSB 461, vv.1-4)

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

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INVOCATION

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

P: We are risen to a new life!

C: We are risen indeed!

P: We were baptized in the name of God the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit;

C: in whose name we live and worship. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.
Our doubts and fears we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our failure to leave behind the way of sin and death and to fully embrace our new life in Christ, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our failure to proclaim by word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our unwise use of the many gifts God has entrusted to us, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

Merciful Father, give us pardon and peace and free us from our sin for the sake of Christ our Saviour. Amen

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of † the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (LSB 461, vv.5-8)

- 5 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.
- 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 Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Grant, almighty God, that we who have celebrated the mystery of the Lord's resurrection may by the help of your grace bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conduct; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 5:29-42

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses

to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at

the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

P: He is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(John 20:19–31)

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my

God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

SERMON HYMN: He’s Risen, He’s Risen (LSB 480)

- 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.

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SERMON: "We Have Seen the Lord!"- John 20:19-31

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition is offered:

P: Lord, in Your mercy:

C: hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION:

P: Now may the God of peace—who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant—make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

C: Alleluia! Amen!

CLOSING HYMN: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing (LSB 475)*

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
 Now is the triumph of our King!
 To all the world glad news we bring:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
 Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
 Let all the world rejoice and say:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
 That love, that life which cannot die,
 And sing with hearts uplifted high:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
 And sing today with one accord
 The life laid down, the life restored:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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