

# Christ

has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV



# Easter Festival Service

April 12, 2020

P: I will not die, but live,

**C: And proclaim what the Lord has done!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

VERSE OF "PROCESSION": 149 (V. 1-2) *CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY*



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on  
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O  
5 Soar we now where Christ has led, Foll'w - ing



earth and an - gels say; Raise your joys and  
fight, the bat - tle won; Lo, our sun's e -  
burst the gates of hell. Death in vain for -  
death, is now your sting? Once he died our  
our ex - alt - ed head. Made like him, like



tri - umphs high; Sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.  
clipse is o'er; Lo, he sets in blood no more.  
bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
souls to save; Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?  
him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

## RESURRECTION PROCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! The stone has been rolled away!

**C: The crucified is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Death, be not proud. Death, you've lost your sting!

**C: For Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Christ has destroyed the shroud that enfolds all people!

**C: Christ has swallowed up the sheet that covers all nations!**

P: Christ wipes away the tears from our faces.

**C: Christ removes the disgrace of his people.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

**VERSE OF "PROCESSION": 149 (V. 3)** *CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY*

**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.**

#### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

P: Children of our risen Lord, let us approach God with true hearts and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned. We deserve your wrath. Our sins leave us with only death as their wages. Punishment in the depths of hell is our just reward. Yet we earnestly seek forgiveness from our sins in the name of Jesus, who lived a perfect life of obedience, who suffered and died for all sins on the cross, and who rose victoriously on the first Easter Day.**

**VERSE OF "PROCESSION": 149 (V. 4)** *CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY*

**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?**

#### **ABSOLUTION**

P: God, our heavenly Father, loves you. By the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus Christ, your sins have been forgiven. You are his own dear child through baptism, and an heir of eternal glory in heaven. Through his glorious resurrection, find proof that you also have victory over death. May you live in endless Easter joy, now and forever.

**C: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

P: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**VERSE OF "PROCESSION": 149 (V. 5)** *CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY*

**5 Soar we now where Christ has led,  
Foll'wing our exalted head.  
Made like him, like him we rise;  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever. Amen.

## THE WORD

### LESSON: ISAIAH 25:6-9

*God points us to the feast of heavenly victory that awaits all who trust in the victorious, resurrected Jesus*

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. <sup>7</sup> On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; <sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:1-15

*The account of the resurrection—the Gospel according to Matthew*

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. <sup>7</sup> Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!”

<sup>8</sup> They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

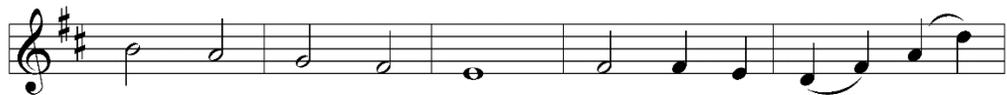
<sup>11</sup> As they were on their way, there were some members of the guard who went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> After the chief priests had assembled with the elders and had reached a decision, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers <sup>13</sup> and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came at night and stole him away while we were sleeping.’ <sup>14</sup> If the governor hears about it, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup> After the soldiers took the money, they did as they were instructed. And this story has been repeated among the Jews until this day.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: 152 I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES (VERSES 1-5)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to  
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save. He lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove. He lives, my hun - gry  
guide me with his eye. He lives to com - fort  
wipe a - way my tears. He lives to calm my



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives and loves me to the end. He lives, and I shall conquer death.  
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing; He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King. 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!"

SERMON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:19-26

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. <sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**NO FOOLS TO BE PITIED HERE!**

**HYMN: 152 I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES (VERSES 6-8)**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE EASTER CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who planned my salvation by sending his Son to die for me and rise again.**

**I believe in God the Son, who came to earth as one of us, who lived a lowly life of obedience to God's laws, and who was perfect in every way, despite the temptations of the devil. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, paying the price of my sin before our heavenly Father. On the first Easter Day he rose victoriously, proving the victory he won over sin, death, and the devil. He ascended back to heaven to rule all things. He will return on the Last Day, to judge the world and give eternal life to his believers.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gathers his Church on earth; who works faith in the risen Savior in the hearts of sinful mortals; and who keeps us firm in the Christian faith through God's Word and Sacraments. I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting, which are possible only through the blessed work of our risen Savior. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

**P:** In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**C: Drive out all doubt and gloom, that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

**P:** Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

**C: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise!"**

**P:** Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us; our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

**P:** Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life. Hear us now, Lord, as we bring our private prayers to you on this Easter day:

*Silent prayer*

**P:** Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Lord's Prayer:

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.

## BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in the peace provided by your Savior's death and resurrection. Live in this Easter joy daily. Serve your risen Lord with gladness.

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.

**CLOSING HYMN:** *OH, THE ANGEL ROLLED THE STONE AWAY!*

**(Refrain)**

**Oh, the angel rolled the stone away.**

**Oh, the angel rolled the stone away.**

**'Twas on that Easter Sunday morning,**

**That the angel rolled the stone away.**

Sister Mary, she came running

just about the break of day.

She was bringing news from heaven,

that the angel rolled the stone away. **(Refrain)**

Said the angel, "He is not here;

He is risen as he said.

Why do you seek the living,

'Way down here among the dead?" **(Refrain)**

Jesus said, "Don't hold me, Mary,

but go on ahead of me.

Go and tell all my disciples

to meet me in Galilee." **(Refrain)**

## Acknowledgements

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