

The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020



**GATHERING HYMN – *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (ELW
#365)**

**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!**

**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!**

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

**Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**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.**

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And God will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over
all nations;

God will swallow up death for
ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe
away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his
people God will take away
from all the earth,

for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.



The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW #172)

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Caribbean Traditional

GOSPEL – John 20:1-18

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and

said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.



But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus

said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

HOMILY

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Halleluia!

Jesus is risen and everything is wrapped up and caught up in this promise that life wins; not even death has the final say, Covid 19 will not claim the victory, and no violence or division or hate or fear will last. What is broken will be brought back together, the dead will be raised, creation is made new....

For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

But did you notice what happened after Peter and the other disciple saw the empty tomb?

They went home.

They stepped out of the light of day, they left that garden where a tomb stood empty, and went back to their rooms in their homes....just like us.

The weird thing about this day this year is that in about fifteen minutes our celebration here will be over, and when we've sung the last hymn and said our virtual goodbyes, we'll stay home. Here at our place I'll change out of this shirt and get normal clothes on, and then for an exciting change I'll move to the dining room instead of the living room. After that I might liven up the day by going to the room down the hall for a nap.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

We've seen the light of a new day. We've looked into the empty tomb with Peter and that other disciple Jesus loved so well; Mary took us to meet Jesus in the garden and maybe we even recognized him, but now we're just staying home because that's all we can do. We've seen this vision of an empty tomb and somewhere inside we trust that it's true, but we also live our lives sort of confined to our rooms, sheltering from the things that we fear that keep on going on around us. Maybe every day is a bit like that.

A few days ago I found this to be a depressing thought. But then I read a post on Facebook on Maundy Thursday that was written by my friend Margi. It goes like this: "Today is Maundy Thursday, the day when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, thereby demonstrating the importance of humility and service to others. We are at a time in human history where instant gratification is taken for granted, yet here we are in the midst of a pandemic where such gratification (ie. Any immediate solution) is impossible to achieve. We must be patient, we must care for others, and we must remember that some things are worth waiting for."

Maybe that's what is going on during these strange times. The empty tomb, and Jesus in the garden, they give us a vision of something that is worth waiting

for – and not just something in another life. We've seen the tomb and we've met Jesus in the garden and we hear it loudly and clearly that life will win and we won't wait forever...and doesn't that stir us up to keep loving and hoping and living another day?

And...we wait....because it doesn't all just suddenly appear.

But some things are worth waiting for. Like opening the door to welcome your best friends to a real in-person Friday night dinner party after months and months of eating alone or dining together by Zoom. Like wandering in a crowd on a downtown street at a summer festival, or on the way into a Jets game, or on a sunny summer morning with a crowd carrying rainbow flags, or on an afternoon skate down the Red River, elbow to elbow with neighbours and friends.... Some things are worth waiting for, like letting your grandkids come right into your house instead of watching them as they leave a grocery bag on the step and wave from the car.

Some things are worth waiting for and they will come, like a vaccine or a cure or an end to war or.....

All these things will come. We've seen it in an empty tomb and a visit in the garden.

Some things are worth waiting for – like a feast around a communion table, and it will come. Like coffee after church right there in person, with some of those good cookies. Like a feast for all the nations that Isaiah saw; a feast for all the people, with the best food and drink in the dining room of the Lord, where the nations are healed, and all the people eat together, and death is swallowed up forever.

We've looked into the empty tomb again today; we've seen so much promise of life. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It's worth the wait!

AMEN.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Be Not Afraid (ELW #388)

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A729438. All rights reserved



THE PRAYERS

Together, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God's family.

For all creation, that it might be renewed by the new life of the risen Christ. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For peace and justice for all the people of the earth; for all those who serve in public office; for all your people, that the new life of Christ might bring new life to our world. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For leaders in the church, especially our bishops Susan and Jason, and for the whole church, that we would love and serve faithfully during easy times and especially during difficult times. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all suffering from COVID-19; those who live with the illness, and those who live in fear of it; for those who work on medical front lines and for those who work to meet our needs for safety and for daily bread. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For healing from all diseases; for the health of these people we name before you now. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For refugees and displaced persons; for those in our community who have no homes or places of safety. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who experience no hope in their darkness, that they would know the presence of the risen Christ walking with them, and that we would have the grace to walk with them too. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all faith communities that wait in hope for the day when we will gather once again. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all those who mourn, we pray for comfort; for those who have died, we offer thanks for the lives they shared with us. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We offer these prayers, O God, in the name of the risen Christ, who taught us to pray:

**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.**

SENDING HYMN – Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (ELW #364)

**Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

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!

For three long days the grave did its worst
until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo,
and in its conquest his might did show.

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!

The angel said to them, "Do not fear.
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.
Only the graveclothes are lying there."

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!

"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 to set 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!**

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A729438. All rights reserved

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
 raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
 and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace. Server your neighbour; serve the risen Lord!

Thanks be to God!



Thanks to Ken Mann for the Music, Charles Gillen and Marlaine Wilborn for assisting with readings and prayers, and Joey McCorrie for pulling the digital pieces together to prepare this worship for us.