

“CALLED TO BEAR WITNESS”

April 9th, 2023

6:45 AM



AS WE GATHER

A blessed Easter to us all! What a joy it is to worship the living Lord together!

The Easter Sunrise Service has long been an historic tradition within the Christian Church. Dating back to, perhaps, even the 2nd century, Christians would gather together late on Saturday night in an “Easter Vigil” (waiting and watching) to eagerly celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection the next day. At midnight, the congregation would break out in a loud cry, “He is Risen, Alleluia!” That’s the reason for how quiet it is as we begin this morning ~ we’re waiting together for Jesus’ tomb to burst open with his blessings and our praises!

The Easter Sunrise service is a lasting remnant of that Easter Vigil from long ago. It was often a time to remember baptism’s blessings and the close connection we have to Christ’s death and resurrection through baptism. So this morning, we will celebrate our Savior’s Resurrection by focusing on what it means for us today, and our eternal future. May the Lord bless us as we worship Him!

THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy time, in which our Lord passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

P: We pray: O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit enkindles the hearts of your faithful people with the first of Your love. Bless, we implore you, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

P: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and Omega.

P: His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

P: By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

(Lighting of the Paschal candle)

P: May the light of Christ, who is risen from the dead, scatter all darkness of our hearts and minds. Let us pray.

P: Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this day in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Lighting of the individual candles)

The Procession

(Between each verse we will stop the procession with

P: The Light of Christ. C: **Thanks be to God**)

“Beautiful Savior”

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight.
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

The Proclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

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

P: The stone has been rolled away! Alleluia!

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

P: He has conquered death by the cross!

C: **He has come out of the tomb!**

P: This is the day the LORD has made!

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!** *Psalm 118:24 NIV*

P: Give thanks to the LORD for He is good!

C: **His love endures forever!** *Psalm 118:1 NIV*

P: All glory, laud, and honor belong to You, O Lord, Alleluia!

C: **We worship, praise, and adore You, O Christ. Alleluia!**

THE EASTER GOSPEL John 20:1-18

P: Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² 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.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there,

but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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. |
|---|--|

THE LIGHT HAS COME

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

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

P: Even in our Easter joy, we confess before our gracious God our failings and sin.

C: **Lord God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned and that our lives are not always what they should be. Our sin leads to guilt that destroys our joy. Our self-centeredness leaves us feeling empty and alone, without the peace of Your presence. Forgive us, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

(A time of silent confession)

P: People of God, the Christ who died for you is risen. His death and resurrection have conquered our enemies of sin and death. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 14:10---15:1

(Moses leads God's people out of Egypt)

P: ¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horse men." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

15 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD,

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

P: Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then

he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavn's, and earth, reply | 2. Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more. |
| 6. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the resurrection, Thou! | |

SERMON

“Called to Bear Witness”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LIGHT IS GIVEN

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **Amen.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

1. Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Al-le-lu-ia
Christians, hasten on your way; Al-le-lu-ia
Offer praise with love replete, Al-le-lu-ia
At the paschal victim’s feet. Al-le-lu-ia
2. For the sheep the Lamb has bleed, Al-le-lu-ia
Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Al-le-lu-ia
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Al-le-lu-ia
Now He lives, no more to die. Al-le-lu-ia
3. Hail, the victim undefiled, Al-le-lu-ia
God and sinners reconciled, Al-le-lu-ia
When contending death and life, Al-le-lu-ia
Met in strange and awesome strife. Al-le-lu-ia
4. Christians, on this holy day, Al-le-lu-ia
All your grateful homage pay; Al-le-lu-ia
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Al-le-lu-ia
Now He lives, no more to die. Al-le-lu-ia

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

++++

Coffee Cake Fellowship.....7:30 am

Easter Worship 9:00 am

Easter Breakfast.....10:15 am

++++

Why Do We Celebrate Easter?

The truth we celebrate today has the highest importance for all of our lives. God says the meaning of Easter is simply this:

- + Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead is God’s proof to us that he has accepted Jesus’ life and death as payment for our sins. We are freely forgiven because of Jesus.
- + Jesus Christ’s resurrection gives us new purpose as we live to glorify God.
- + Jesus Christ’s resurrection assures us that God will one day raise us from the dead to live before him in a perfect world.
- + Jesus Christ’s resurrection is God’s proof that the Christian faith is the true faith that he wants all people to know and believe.