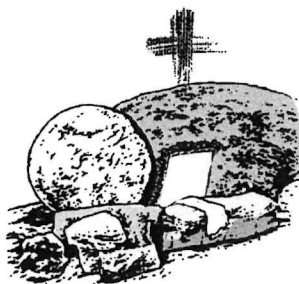


Festival Service for Easter

March 31st, 2024

8:00 am



THREE WORDS...

Opening Easter Hymn & Processional

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

[LSB #461...vs. 1-2. 5, 7 + 8]

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.
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.
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;
O the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Easter Greeting & Invocation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: We make our Easter beginnings in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Easter Proclamation

P: Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

Hymn Response

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

[LSB #487...vs. 1 and 5]

- ♪ 1. Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.
5. Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark portal
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!

Prayer / Collect for Easter Day

P: 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.

1st Reading - Isaiah 25:6-9 [Cong. will join on selected verses]

P: On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

C: **And He will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.**

(continues)

- P: He will swallow up death forever;
and the LORD GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
- C: **It will be said on that day,**
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;
let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

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

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

Special Music Response

“RESURRECTION VICTORY” - Sacred Choral Ensemble + Brass

Gospel Reading - Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back - it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth,

who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Confession of Faith

P: This is the Faith on which we stand. This is the Truth by which we are saved. Together we now confess the Light of Christ...

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;

Not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

ALL: 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!

Women: Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!

ALL: **Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!**
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Men: But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!

ALL: **Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!**
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

ALL: **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! A—men

Sermon

“Three Words...

That Changed / CHANGES EVERYTHING!!!”



THREE WORDS...

Offering / Special Music Response

“CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED”

- Sacred Choral Ensemble + flute

Prayer for the Church & the Kingdom of Our Risen Lord

Confession & Absolution (pastor leads us in a time of confession)

- *Easter Video* [SALOME AT THE TOMB]

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.**

Words of Institution / Holy Communion

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

C: And also with you.

Distribution / Distribution Hymns (Communion will be served in continuous fashion...balconies first)

♪ **“This is the Feast”**

*This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

to Refrain - next page

Refrain: ***This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *to Refrain*
3. Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation. *to v.4*
4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

***This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

5. For the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia!

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" [LSB #469]

1. "Christ the Lord is risen today!" Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, 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.
3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise.
4. Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?
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.
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!

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" [LSB #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.

(continues)

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!

"The Day of Resurrection"

[LSB #478]

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.
2. Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All Hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!
4. All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One,
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

Easter Prayer and Benediction

(please rise)

Closing Hymn & Recessional (w/ choir, organ and brass)

"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise" (congregation is seated)

(ALL) Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!
To His throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heav'n, Alleluia!

(Men) There for Him high triumph waits, Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

(ALL) He hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia!
Take the King of Glory in, Alleluia!

(Choir) *Lo! The heav'n its Lord receives, Alleluia!*
Yet He loves the earth He leaves Alleluia!
Though returning to His throne, Still He calls mankind His own
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

⇒ (Brief organ interlude - please rise / facing the cross as it recesses)

(ALL) See! He lifts His hands above, Alleluia!
See! He shows the prints of love, Alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on His church below, Alleluia!

Ending (Choir): Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude **"Fanfare for Easter"** *Bob + RJ Green, and Keith McGuigan...trumpets*