

**“I Know that My Redeemer Lives” – Easter Sunday
April 9, 2023**

Welcome to this special service for Easter Sunday. In this service that honors the 250th anniversary of the song “Amazing Grace,” we come to understand that Mary Magdalene witnessed amazing grace outside the empty tomb when she encountered Jesus risen from the dead. We await the free gift of new life to come because of his resurrection for us. Death comes to all. Do we stand weeping outside the tomb or even in our grief hear the voice of Jesus “I am ascending to my Father and your Father to my God and your God.” The dead will be raised – Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Happy Easter! And Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

“Butterfly” I Know that My Redeemer Lives (insert) ELW #619

<https://youtu.be/dEhmNkCwPv4>

by The Tabernacle Choir

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Easter Confession and Absolution

P: The Lord Jesus, who earlier had healed Mary Magdalene, sent her on that first Easter morning to be one of the first witnesses to his resurrection. Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness, praying that he would send us out as witnesses to his resurrection.

Time of Silence and Reflection

P: Almighty God,

C: We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Instead of living in the power of our Savior's resurrection, we follow our own selfish and sinful desires. We turn from your holy Word and listen instead to temptations of world around us. We often live to please ourselves instead of serving others in Jesus' name. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

P: As the Lord showed grace to Mary Magdalene, healing her and sending her as a witness, he shows grace to us. Jesus our Savior suffered and died for our sins and rose to life on the first Easter morning. Therefore, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise – “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” ELW #365

<https://youtu.be/rMwPEmUMP7U>

by the Kings College Choir

Easter Prayer of the Day

A: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life!

C: 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.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 25:6-9

He will swallow up death forever

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.

² **Let Israel now say, "His mercy *endures* forever."**

- 14 The LORD *is* my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.
- 15 **The voice of rejoicing and salvation Is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**
- 16 The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
- 17 **I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD.**
- 18 The LORD has chastened^[b] me severely, But He has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, And I will praise the LORD.
- 20 This is the gate of the LORD, Through which the righteous shall enter.
- 21 **I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation.**
- 22 The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 ^[c]**This was the LORD's doing; It *is* marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 This *is* the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Epistle reading – 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 20:1-18

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"

The Holy Gospel According to John. **Glory to You O Lord.**

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. 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." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other

disciple, who had 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 went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one 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." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 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.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

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

Easter for Children

<https://youtu.be/UfR2CdKKUaY>

Easter Homily – *Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.*

Amazing Grace!

<https://youtu.be/ab1sKYQjMql>

Easter Hymn – "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

ELW #367

https://youtu.be/lpArZ_eAMqM

by Lutheran Warbler

Profession of Faith

“Christ the Lord is risen today!” All on earth with angels say; raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, O heavens; and earth, reply. Love’s redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won. Lo! The sun’s eclipse is over. Lo! He sets in blood no more. Amen!

Prayers of Intercession

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for (*Dietrich Bonhoeffer and*) all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world (*places of concern or conflict may be named*) that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized (*especially*) and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise (*especially*), free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Music – “We Praise You, O God”

ELW #870

<https://youtu.be/1wYMO9vPXtQ>

by First Plymouth Church

Offertory Prayer

A: What can we bring to match your matchless gift, heavenly Father?

C: Even as Jesus' tomb was opened on this glorious day,

A: so shall our graves open...

C: ...so shall heaven's gates open for us!

A: What can we offer but our praise?

C: Alleluia!

A: Praise the Lord! Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Hymn - "Around You, O Lord Jesus" ELW #468

<https://youtu.be/K9MmJ0w6ZIY>

by Mary Munson

P: O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The 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.

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Communion Music

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: This meal proclaims your death, O Christ – your death for the world's sin.

C: Give us voices to proclaim your LIFE!

A: Give us hearts to LIVE your life!

C: Give us wills to spread your love.

A: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Halleluiah and Amen!

Easter Benediction – 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Death is swallowed up in victory.

C: O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

P: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

C: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

From Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Thine Is the Glory”

ELW #376

https://youtu.be/8b4tG_btLmU

by St. Andrews Cathedral, Sydney

Dismissal

A: May our Risen Lord equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight!

C: We go in peace. Christ is risen!

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston