





EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021, 8:00 AM

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**Hymn 198** He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord

### **Easter Acclamation**

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

**C Amen.**

P Today is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

**C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

P Christ who died upon the cross:

**C Is now risen from the grave.**

P But what does this mean?

**C It means that Jesus is true God, Son of the Father.**

P Truly it does, for it is written: His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who as to His human nature was a descendant of David—

**C Was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead.**

P But what does the resurrection of Jesus prove?

**C It proves that His word is true and certain.**

P It surely does, for Jesus foretold: We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.

**C He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him, insult Him, spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. On the third day He will rise again.**

P Yes, but what certainty does Jesus' resurrection give us?

**C It makes us certain that our sins are forgiven.**

P It truly does, for it is written:

**C He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**

P Now what does Jesus' resurrection teach us about our own bodies in their graves?

**C It teaches us that we too will rise from the dead.**

P For it is written:

**C But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

P For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**C But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to him.**

## Scripture Lessons

### Isaiah 25:6-9

By His resurrection Christ removes the shroud of death that covers all nations.

### Psalm 118

(see bulletin insert)

## Confession of Faith

(The *Te Deum Laudamus*, an ancient hymn of praise)

We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth worships You the Father everlasting. To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein; To You cherubim and seraphim continually cry: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory." The glorious company of the Apostles praises You; The fellowship of the prophets praises You; The noble army of martyrs praises You; The holy Church throughout all the world acknowledges You: The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable true and only Son, also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

You are the everlasting Son of the Father. You are the King of Glory, O Christ. When you took it upon Yourself to deliver man, You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin. When you had overcome the sharpness of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that You will come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray You, help Your servants, whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

## The Easter Gospel

Presented by the Sunday School

**Kyleigh:** On Saturday evening Mary from Magdala and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint Jesus.

But on Sunday morning there was a great earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went and rolled the stone away, and sat on it. He was as bright as lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

**Hailey:** While it was still dark, the women started out to see the grave. They came to the grave when the sun was up and were bringing the spices they had prepared. "Who is going to roll the stone from the door of the grave for us?" they asked one another, because it was very large. But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back.

Then Mary from Magdala ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the grave," she told them, "and we don't know where they have laid Him."

The other women went into the grave, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were troubled about this, suddenly two men stood beside them in clothes that flashed like lightning, one young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting at the right. The women were terrified, and they bowed down to the ground.

**Brock:** "Don't be afraid," the angel said to the women. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you look among the dead for Him who is alive? He is not here. He is risen as He said. Remember what he told you while He was still in Galilee, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day.'" (They remembered what He had said.) "Come, see the place where He was laid. And go quickly, tell His disciples and Peter: 'He has risen from the dead. You know He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him as he promised.' Now I have told you."

They went out and hurried from the grave, because they were trembling and bewildered with fear and great joy. They were so frightened that they said nothing to anyone but ran to tell the news to His disciples.

**Nicholas:** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the

imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:51-57).

**Simeon:** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, 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 (1 Cor 15:19-26).

## Hymn 199

## Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Children: vv. 1-3 **Congregation: v. 4**

Children      1. 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!

Children      2. 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!

Children      3. 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!

**Congregation      4. 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!**

## Sermon – John 20:11-18

### MARY THOUGHT IT WAS THE GARDENER

But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Hymn

### Ere Yet the Dawn Has Filled the Skies

(Melody: TLH 15 From All that Dwell below the Skies)



1. Ere yet the dawn has filled the skies,  
Behold, my Savior Christ arise; Alleluia, alleluia,  
He chases from us sin and night,  
And brings us joy and life and light. Alleluia, alleluia ...

2. O stronger now than death and hell!  
Where is the foe You cannot quell, Alleluia, alleluia,  
What heavy stone You cannot roll  
From off the suffering, anguished soul? Alleluia, alleluia ...

3. Strong Champion! For this comfort true  
The whole world brings her thanks to You; Alleluia, alleluia,  
And thus we too shall raise above  
More sweet and loud the song of love. Alleluia, alleluia ...

## Offering

(The offering is being collected on the table in the entryway this morning.)

## **Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Special Music**

### **Closing Prayer**

P Almighty God, who through the resurrection of Your only begotten Son has overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life, replenish us, we ask You, with Your heavenly grace, that, dying to sin always and living to righteousness, we may at last triumph over death and the grave, in the full image of our risen Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

P May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn 200:6-8** He Lives, My Kind, Wise, Heavenly Friend



# Daily Bible Readings for April 5-10, 2021

Commentary by Prof. Paul Koch (retired)

**Mon Isaiah 12** Easter won't ever be over, for Jesus is still alive after He absorbed all of God's justifiable anger against mankind. His self-sacrifice was an *excellent* thing to do, for He and He alone could bear the sin burden all the way into the grave and come out the other side alive and well.

Hallelujah! **Isaiah 25:6-9** Jesus was bitten by death, and it killed Him. Some hours later, He took the bite out of death; Easter demonstrates that death is now mortal.

**Tues John 20:1-18** It took a while for the truth to sink in (1-10), and angels helped Mary realize it (11-15). We note that Jesus did not turn His back on Mary but stood close by, ready to calm her distress and direct her toward His ascension, proof positive that He had completed His assignment on Earth.

**Wed 1 Corinthians 15:19-26** The Christian/God's religion is not earth-born, but heaven-sent (19). God superseded the earth-born/sin factor via Jesus' resurrection, and applied it to us (20-23). That's wonderful all by itself, and there's still more to come (24-26). Meanwhile, let's enjoy our blessings!

**Thurs Psalm 30** David had personal reasons for extolling the LORD, and so do we. Hasn't God lifted us up from the grave with Jesus (1-3)? We too rejoice as each day of grace dawns (4-5) –and when troubles come along (6-7), we bring them to Jesus, asking Him to be our Helper (8-10). David had his reasons for giving thanks to God—over and over—and so do we (11-12).

**Fri Mark 16:1-8** Human weakness is like a big stone, but not too big for one of God's messengers to roll away, look us in the eye, and tell us face-to-face, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, but I have good news: He has left the cemetery behind and is going about His business; you will see Him, as He promised."

Lord, embolden us to tell this good news as we go about our business.

**Sat 1 Corinthians 15:51-57** Easter will be re-enacted on Judgment Day, when Jesus sees to it that our deadness gets overcome, our corruption reverts to wholesomeness, and our mortality dissolves into immortality.

How can this be, we wonder, since it's not the natural order of things. Well, God will reverse the natural order of things, all those factors which arise from and are bound with sin, for Jesus has pulled the stingers out of sin and death via His resurrection.

That straightens out everything that was crooked.

*Thanks be to God, who has given us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!* And that's not all, for He has also regenerated and re-conditioned us for our daily, loving service to Him in our corner of His Kingdom.

Glory be to Jesus, now and forever after! Amen and Amen!



