

Featured Element of Worship: Easter Decorations

Why exactly do we decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday with numerous Easter lilies and candelabras?

Some of the more fanciful stories about Easter lilies include that they sprouted at the foot of the cross and in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus' blood, sweat, and tears had fallen. While this is purely legend, Easter lilies has come to symbolize Christ Jesus in a number of ways: Their life cycle of several years in bulb form beneath the earth, before bursting forth in magnificent glory calls to mind the death and resurrection of our Lord. Meanwhile, their white color embodies the purity of our Lord, and their trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horn which will sound in the last day, when Jesus will return and set all things right.

As for the candelabras, just two nights ago on good Friday, we remembered the descent into darkness at the crucifixion of Jesus, extinguishing candles as part of our Tenebrae service. Today we celebrate the victory of light over darkness, and with it, the victory of life over death!

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Because He Lives

Choir

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

Leader: O death, where is your victory?

Congregation: O death, where is your sting?

Leader: Thanks be to God!

Congregation: Who gives us victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Leader: Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 4. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; *Al - le - lu - ia!*

sons of men and an - gels say; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 fought the fight, the bat - tle won; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 Christ hath burst the gates of hell; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 where, O death, is now thy sting? *Al - le - lu - ia!*

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 lo, the sun's e - clipse is o'er; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 death in vain for - bids him rise; *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 Once he died, our souls to save; *Al - le - lu - ia!*

sing ye heav'ns and earth re - ply. *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 lo, he sheds his blood no more. *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 Christ hath o - pened par - a - dise. *Al - le - lu - ia!*
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? *Al - le - lu - ia!*

5. Soar we now where Christ hath led, *Alleluia!*
 foll'wing our exalted Head; *Alleluia!*
 made like him, like him we rise; *Alleluia!*
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies. *Alleluia!*

6. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! *Alleluia!*
 Praise to thee by both be giv'n; *Alleluia!*
 thee we greet triumphant now; *Alleluia!*
 hail, the Resurrection, thou! *Alleluia!*

Corporate Prayer of Confession & Silent Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, our atoning sacrifice and the light of the world. Amen.

Adapted from The Book of Common Worship

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18

The Gloria Patri

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Elder Bob Daily

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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Unison Scripture Reading

John 20:1-10

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. ²So 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." ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Anthem

A Classic Easter Alleluia

Choir

Reception of New Members

Pastoral Prayer

Up from the Grave He Arose

1. Low in the grave he lay— Je - sus, my Sav - ior,
 2. Vain - ly they watch his bed— Je - sus, my Sav - ior;
 3. Death can - not keep his prey— Je - sus, my Sav - ior;

wait - ing the com - ing day— Je - sus, my Lord.
 vain - ly they seal the dead— Je - sus, my Lord.
 he tore the bars a - way— Je - sus, my Lord.

Refrain

Up from the grave he a - rose,
 He a - rose!

with a might - y tri - umph o'er his foes.
 He a - rose!

(continued next page)

He a - rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he

lives for - ev - er with his saints to reign. He a - rose!
 He a - rose!

He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!
 He a - rose!

Robert Lowry, 1874
 CCLI# 594962

CHRIST AROSE 11.10.ref.
 Robert Lowry, 1874

Sermon

Rev. Pete Scribner

John 20:11-18

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.

Three Essential Things:

- Seeing

- Knowing

- Telling

Statement of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* catholic = universal

Crown Him with Many Crowns

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1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, tri - um - phant o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 4. Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time;

hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
 who rose vic - to - rious from the strife for those he came to save.
 • rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in pray'r and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

(continued next page)

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and reigns on high;
 • no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 his reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me:

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 he died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 • but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flow'rs of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Matthew Bridges, 1851
 CCLI# 594962

DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

We Depart into the World...

Benediction

Parting Hymn

**God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide,
 uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till
 we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus'
 feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Following today's service, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee & fellowship, and then Sunday School in our education wing.

