

# Easter Celebration

April 5, 2026

*(Please enter in silence)*

*The followers of Jesus on that first Easter morning came to His tomb expecting nothing more than the final opportunity to prepare Jesus' body for the sleep of death. His burial on Good Friday had been done in haste; now they would be able to take ample time for proper preparation of their beloved Master's body according to their burial custom.*

## EASTER GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

## THE EASTER PROCESSIONAL

Prelude

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB #465)

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (LSB #461) *Congregation please rise and sing.*

## INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

## THE EASTER SENTENCES

P: He is alive...

C: **Alleluia!**

*(Alleluia means "Praise the Lord")*

P: We thank and praise You! We worship and adore You, O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **You have given us eternal life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead. Alleluia!**

P: You have given us the Light of the world who drives away all shadows of sin and evil.

C: **You have given us sweet release from our sins by raising Jesus from the dead. Alleluia!**

P: You have given us the Light of the world who shows us the true way to live our lives to Your glory.

C: **You have given us sweet release from doubt and despair by raising Jesus from the dead. Alleluia!**

P: You have given us the Light of the world who shows us the way out of all trouble and danger.

C: **You have given us sweet release from all fear by raising Jesus from the dead. Alleluia!**

P: Praise to You, Lord of heaven and earth,

C: **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P: He is risen!

C: **HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 19:23-27

"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead or engraved in rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes — I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

L: This is the word of the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## THE EASTER EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen

asleep in Christ are lost. 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 first fruits 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 first fruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## THE EASTER GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Martin Luther's Explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed*

**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 creature, 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, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

HYMN: "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done" (LSB #464)

## SERMON

OFFERTORY (sung)

*Psalm 51:10-12*

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.***

***Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.***

***Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

OFFERING FROM GOD'S PEOPLE

## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

**Heavenly Father, through the resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ You have given us the promise of eternal life! Fill our hearts and minds with the knowledge of our true wealth and security, so that we would not cling to worldly riches that pass away but share them generously to serve our neighbor and spread Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9 ff*

**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**

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-25*

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and give you His peace.

C: **Amen**

P: He is risen!!

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

HYMN: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (LSB #457)

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*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Elder: Kyle Krull/Scott Kastman | Musician: Julie Hall/Jordan Fox*

### *Acknowledgments*

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