



## April 8, 2012 – The Resurrection of Our Lord

An Easter Victory Celebration with Holy Communion

*Please see the Communion Statement at the end of the bulletin*

### AS WE GATHER

*Arranging surprise parties is complicated, especially the careful planning of how to keep the "surprise-ee" in the dark. "Everybody" all over the world knows that today Christians celebrate Easter. We are not surprised. How different that first Easter! The women were surprised at the empty tomb. The angel was surprised that they were looking for "the living among the dead." The disciples were surprised at the women's "idle tale." Even Peter was surprised for, apparently, seeing meant not believing! Our Lord's resurrection should really not be surprising. It was clearly foretold in the scriptures and even by His own words before His crucifixion. It is a matter of history. What should always surprise and astonish us, however, is the miracle of faith that believes that the Lord is risen; the faith that shouts, "He is risen, indeed!"*

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" #457

### INVOCATION AND OPENING VERSICLES

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

C: **Amen. (Sung)**

P: This is the day that the LORD has made;

C: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: The stone that the builders rejected

C: **has become the cornerstone. Psalm 118:24, 22**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*(Silence for reflection.)*

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. I confess that I am a sinner, spiritually blind and dead, separated from God. Lord, grant me faith that I may receive forgiveness of my sin and believe with joy the new life You give for the sake of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

P: The Holy Spirit calls you by the Gospel, enlightens you with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps you in the true faith. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by the authority of my risen Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. (Sung)**

INTROIT *(see bulletin insert)*

### KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord:  
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord:  
C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**    *"This is the Feast"*    (p.171)

### COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.  
Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us.  
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

+ **WORD** +

**THE OLD TESTAMENT**            Isaiah 25:6-9

P: This is the Word of our Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE EPISTLE**                    1 Corinthians 15:1-11

P: This is the Word of our Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**            Mark 16:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the Sixteenth chapter.  
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**  
*(The Gospel is read.)*  
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN** *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* (vs. 1-4, 7-8) #461

### SERMON

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** Nicene Creed  
*(inside back cover of the hymnal)*

### OFFERING

### PRAYERS

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in the risen Lord Jesus, and for all people that they may join us with gladness in the great surprise of the Good News of the resurrection.

For the whole Church throughout the world. May all Christians everywhere testify with joy to the great gift we celebrate this day of the full and free forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life for all who have faith in Jesus, risen from the dead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: For all pastors and leaders and teachers of the Church. May they always keep the joy of Easter at the heart of their service to all God's people. May they, in their life and doctrine, continually proclaim the great surprise of the grace of God for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: For the nations of the earth and all in positions of civil authority. May their every plan and decision be for the furtherance of peace in the world and justice to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: For all who are in trouble, want, sickness, or any other adversity, and all who are suffering for the sake of the name and truth of Christ. Comfort, direct, heal, and encourage them with the joyful faith that nothing in all creation can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: May all who receive our Lord's life-giving body and blood this day thereby die to sin and be raised to newness of life to live in the certain hope of the resurrection to life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: With reverence and affection we remember before You, O everlasting God, all who have departed this life in Your faith and fear. Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward You, that hereafter we may enter into Your presence and be numbered with those who serve You and look upon Your face in glory everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

+ SACRAMENT +  
 +THE LORD'S SUPPER+  
**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**  
*(p. 194-202 in the hymnal)*

**PREFACE** p194

**SANCTUS** p195

**LORD'S PRAYER** p196

**PAX DOMINI** p197

**AGNUS DEI** p198

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN #'s 470, 480, 490, 463**

**NUNC DIMITTUS** p199

**THANKSGIVING** p200

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** p201

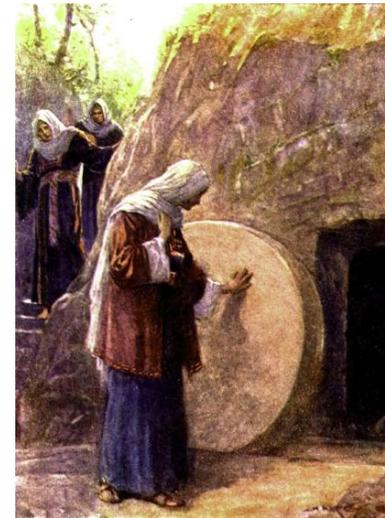
**SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS**

**BENEDICTION** p202

**THE TRIPLE AMEN**

**CLOSING HYMN** *"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"* #465

+ + +  
*Soli Deo Gloria*



**Holy Communion**  
**The Lord's Supper**

is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, guests who are not confirmed members of a LCMS congregation and have not previously communed at this altar, are asked to first speak with our pastor.

If you are unable to do so before the service, it is out of Christian love and care for your souls that we ask you to refrain from communing this morning.

For further study, please see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

If you desire to receive a blessing for yourself or your children, please approach during communion, cross your arms over your chest and bow your head as you kneel at the altar rail.