THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Easter Sunday - April 9, 2023 – Festival Service

AS WE GATHER

Ever since Pontius Pilate worried that someone would steal the body of the crucified Jesus and claim that He had risen from the dead, many have doubted and called the resurrection a lie. But Jesus is risen bodily from the dead. Today, the Holy Church throughout the world boldly testifies to the fact that Christ is risen. Still, this fact remains an article of faith. Such faith is not a result of mere imagination, however, but is the very creation of God the Holy Spirit by the mighty Word of God handed down to us by the testimony of many witnesses. The resurrection is the fact of God's love. He really is risen! Alleluia!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The pastor addresses the people from the front of the nave.

Pastor: We gather today in the presence of God to celebrate the most significant event in the history of the whole world: the fulfillment of God's own promise to mankind from the beginning, the undoing of the curse of death, and the defeat of the cause of death namely sin. It is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from death. He did not die for Himself. He died the death of Adam and Eve and of all their descendants. He died your death. After three days in a cold tomb of death, He arose bodily and to this day lives and rules the universe. The fact of His resurrection is a celebration of faith. This victory is assured to all who believe. Though we still sin and though we die, by faith in Jesus, the living Lord, sin is forgiven and taken away, and death becomes but the gate to our own resurrection to eternal life.

HYMN "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" (LSB – 457)

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

INVOCATION *(please stand)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory?
People: O death, where is your sting?"
Pastor: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
People: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, let us confess our sins to God our Father.
People: I confess to You, most merciful God, that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, words and deeds, those that I have done as well as the good I have failed to do. It is my own sin that condemns me. In Your mercy and according to Your promise, forgive me my sin, create a new heart in me, restore to me the joy of Your salvation for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God. Amen.
Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command

of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

INTROIT

People: **I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.**

Men: **This is my God, and I will praise him, My father's God, and I will exalt him.**

Women: ***Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.***

Men: **You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.**

Women: ***You will bring them in and plant them on your holy mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your holy abode.***

Men: **the sanctuary, O LORD, which your hands have established. The Lord will reign forever and ever.**

People: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.**

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43 (The Gospel is for All.)

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism
35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know
the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through
Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of
Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - 38 how God anointed Jesus
of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing
all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. 39 "We are witnesses
of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging
him on a cross, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be
seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—
by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach
to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and
the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives
forgiveness of sins through his name."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:1-4 *(Raised with Christ.)*

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10 *(The women visit the tomb.)* *(please stand)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eight chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped

him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (LSB 465)

Now all the vault of heav’n resounds
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Repeat their song of glory here:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In praise of love that still abounds:
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Eternal is the gift He brings,
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
And by His presence stills all strife.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
Now still He comes to give us life
Christ has triumphed! He is living!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
That we conquer through Your triumph;
That by our lives we truly say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Set heart and will on things above
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Adoring praises now we bring
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

And with the heav'nly blessèd sing:
Be to the Father and our Lord,
All the glory, never ending!

SERMON "What a Difference a Day Makes" **Matthew 28:1-10**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(please stand)*

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

OFFERING (please be seated)

If you are a visitor this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for members to practice faithful

stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *(please stand)*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored

to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (LSB 633)

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast - Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured,
Israel's hosts triumphant go

Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
With sincerity and love

Paschal victim, paschal bread;
Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
You have conquered in the fight,
Now no more can death appall,
You have opened paradise,

Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
Now no more the grave enthrall;
And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,

This alone can sin destroy;
Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Spirit, guide through all our days:

Savior, by whose death we live,
Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" (LSB 490)

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
Brighter scenes will then commence;

Death no longer can appall me;
From the grave will Christ recall me.
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
I shall go where He is gone,
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!

High above all things is given.
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,
Pure in heart and act abide,
All I need God will dispense;

Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
God will be my sure defense;
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Part me now from Christ forever.
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death
This shall calm my trembling breath
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
But the gate of life immortal;
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Jesus is my confidence!.

HYMN: "He's Risen, He's Risen" (LSB 480)

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the_incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *(please stand)*

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen. (*please be seated)*

HYMN: "The Day of Resurrection" (LSB 478)

The day of resurrection!
The passover of gladness,
From death to life eternal,
Our Christ has brought us over
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of God.
From sin's dominion free,
With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil
The Lord in rays eternal
And, list'ning to His accents,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,

That we may see aright
Of resurrection light
May hear, so calm and plain,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
Let all the world keep triumph
Let all things, seen and unseen,
For Christ the Lord has risen,

Let earth its song begin,
And all that is therein.
Their notes of gladness blend;
Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father,
All praise to God the Spirit,
Let all the ransomed number
And honor, pow'r, and glory

All praise to God the Son,
Eternal Three in One!
Fall down before the throne
Ascribe to God alone!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the risen Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

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