



**Easter Sunday**  
**March 31, 2024**

**Opening Hymn #199**

***Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!***

1. Jesus Christ Is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise, then, let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

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!

4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son. and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**P:** The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## **Confession & Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

**P:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## **Song of Thanksgiving**

**C: (sing) Thank the Lord; sing His praise;  
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.**

**Thank the Lord; sing His praise;  
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Send us with Your promises Lord;  
Lead your people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.**

**Thank the Lord; sing His praise;  
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: Let us pray.

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (sing) Amen.**

### **The First Lesson – Isaiah 25:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

<sup>7</sup>And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the  
earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might  
save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

## Psalm of the Day – Psalm 16

### **Antiphon -**

*This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!*

*This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!*

1 Preserve me, | O God,\*

**for in you I take | refuge.**

2 I say to the LORD, “You | are my Lord;\*

**I have no good a- | part from you.”**

3 As for the saints | in the land,\*

**they are the excellent ones, in whom is all | my delight.**

4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall | multiply;\*

**their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take  
their names | on my lips.**

5 The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;\*

**you | hold my lot.**

6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;\*

**indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.**

7 I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;\*

**in the night also my heart in- | structs me.**

8 I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;\*

**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.**

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;\*

**my flesh also | dwells secure.**

10 For you will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,\*

**or let your holy one see cor- | ruption.**

11 You make known to me the | path of life;\*

**in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand  
are pleasures for- | evermore.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

***Antiphon -***

*This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!*

**The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:1–11**

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**Verse of the Day – 2 Timothy 1:10b**

Alleluia. [Christ Jesus] abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

**The Alleluia – sing**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **The Gospel – Mark 16:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” <sup>4</sup>And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup>And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup>And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**C: (sing) Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

### **Hymn of the Day #195**

#### ***Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands***

1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,  
For our offenses given;  
But now at God's right hand He stands  
And brings us life from heaven;  
Therefore let us joyful be  
And sing to God right thankfully  
Loud songs of hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!

2. It was a strange and dreadful strife  
When Life and Death contended;  
The victory remained with Life,  
The reign of Death was ended;

Holy Scripture plainly saith  
That Death is swallowed up by Death,  
His sting is lost forever.  
Hallelujah!

3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,  
Whom God so freely gave us;  
He died on the accursed tree-  
So strong His love!-to save us.  
See, His blood doth mark our door;  
Faith points to it, Death passes o'er,  
And Satan cannot harm us.  
Hallelujah!

4. So let us keep the festival  
Whereto the Lord invites us;  
Christ is himself the Joy of all,  
The Sun that warms and lights us.  
By His grace He doth impart  
Eternal sunshine to the heart;  
The night of sin is ended.  
Hallelujah!

5. Then let us feast this Easter Day  
On Christ, the Bread of heaven;  
The Word of Grace hath purged away  
The old and evil leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed,  
He is our meat and drink indeed;  
Faith lives upon no other.  
Hallelujah!

## **Sermon Text – Mark 16:1-8**

### **Sermon**

### ***The Risen Christ Has Swallowed Up Death Forever!***

### **Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy Christian Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

**P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.**

**P: Almighty God, You kept Your promise and delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior. By His sacrificial death, our sins are forgiven, and by His rising again, we have the hope of everlasting**



life. Keep us in this holy joy throughout the Easter season and all our daily lives, that we may not fear our enemies nor give in to the temptation of despair in our days of trouble.

**<sup>1</sup> He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

P: Bless President Biden, and all who make and administer our laws. Frustrate the forces of evil, and do not let our leaders cooperate with them or further their goals. Guard our armed forces as they stand watch for us at home and abroad. Let them serve with honor and integrity.

**<sup>2</sup> 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.**

P: Let us hold fast to the Word preached to us, that receiving it with joy we may take our stand in it and be saved by it. Hinder all who would sow doubt into our hearts, and grant us courage to confess its truth in our life and conversation.

**<sup>3</sup> 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.**

P: Have mercy on the sick and those in any need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Let the dawning light of the new creation in Christ sustain them in faith. In accord with Your will, grant them renewed health. We pray that You will not abandon us to Sheol but that, when we awake in the resurrection of all flesh, Your presence will give us joy.

**4 Oh, 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.**

P: Be with Pastor Wilke, our Synod President; Pastor Albrech, our Conference Visitor; and all our pastors. Keep them faithful to deliver to Your people the apostolic Gospel of Your Son's death, burial and resurrection.

**5 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.**

P: We join today in singing eternal alleluias with innumerable angels in festal gathering, with the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and we bring these petitions before You, dear Father, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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 Benediction

**C: (sing) Amen, Amen, Amen**

### **Closing Hymn #200**

#### *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head.
2. He lives triumphant from the grave,  
He lives eternally to save,  
He lives all-glorious in the sky,  
He lives exalted there on high.
3. He lives to bless me with His love,  
He lives to plead for me above.  
He lives my hungry soul to feed,  
He lives to help in time of need.
4. He lives to grant me rich supply,  
He lives to guide me with His eye,  
He lives to comfort me when faint,  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
5. He lives to silence all my fears,  
He lives to wipe away my tears  
He lives to calm my troubled heart,  
He lives all blessings to impart.
6. He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend,  
He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

7. He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death:  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

8. He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives,  
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

## **Silent Prayer**

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