

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ
12 April 2020

ABOUT TODAY'S LITURGY:

Christ's Resurrection Means That We Will Be Raised: "Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Cor. 5:7). By the shed blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, eternal death has passed over us. Now we pass with Christ through death into life everlasting. For Christ the crucified One is risen! The stone has been rolled away from the tomb, revealing that the tomb could not hold Him (Mark 16:1-8). Now our Redeemer lives eternally to save us from sin and Satan and the grave, and we can live in the sure hope of our own bodily resurrection with Christ. "After my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:26). Feasting on the living Christ, who is our meat and drink indeed, we boldly say: "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:54-55, 57).

Easter Acclamation

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 8:1, 5–6, 9; antiphon: Luke 24:5b–6b



He is risen! Alle- | luia!*

Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!

Remember how he told you, Alle- | luia,*

that the Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise. Alle- | luia!

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the | heavens.

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*

and crowned him with glory and | honor.

You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;*

you have put all things under | his feet.

O | LORD, our Lord,*

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

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.

He is risen! Alle- | luia!*

Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!

Remember how he told you, Alle- | luia,*

that the Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise. Alle- | luia!

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

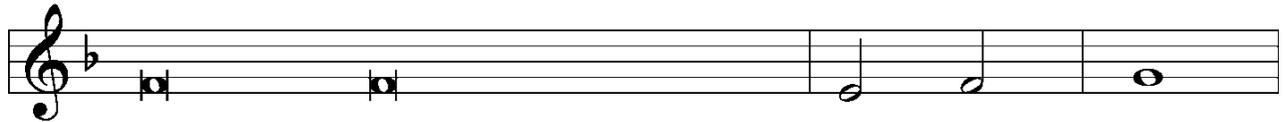
Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P 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 A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Job 19:23-27

“Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
 and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
 And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
 yet in my flesh I shall see God,
 whom I shall see for myself,
 and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
 My heart faints within me!"

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Ps. 118:24, 1



This is the day that the | LORD has made; *
 let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good; *
 for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

Anthem

“We Will Praise You”

D. Buxtehude

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 5:6–8

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sac- | rificed.* Let us therefore celebrate the festival with the
 unleavened bread of sincerity- | ty and truth.* *Alleluia repeated.* *1 Cor. 5:7b-8a,c*

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Mark 16:1–8

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

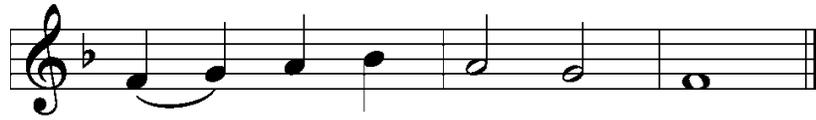


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun

had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 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. 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.” 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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.

458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of - fens -
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, Such ru - in sin
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, His peo - ple to
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife When life and death



es giv - en; But now at God's right hand He stands
 had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on earth,
 de - liv - er; De - stroy - ing sin, He took the crown
 con - tend - ed; The vic - to - ry re - mained with life,



And brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
 And there - fore death had brought us In - to bond - age
 From death's pale brow for - ev - er: Stripped of pow'r, no
 The reign of death was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture



joy - ful be And sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 from of old And ev - er grew more strong and bold
 more it reigns; An emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
 plain - ly saith That death is swal - lowed up by death,



Loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 And held us as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here our 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 now marks our door;
 Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Alleluia!

Now His grace to us imparts
 Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
 The night of sin is ended.
 Alleluia!

6 So let us keep the festival
 To which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is Himself the joy of all,
 The sun that warms and lights us.

7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
 On Christ, the bread of heaven;
 The Word of grace has 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!
 Alleluia!

Sermon

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 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, heav'nly 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!

Prayer of the Church

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 Collect for the Word

☐ Blessed Lord who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy Holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

☑ **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

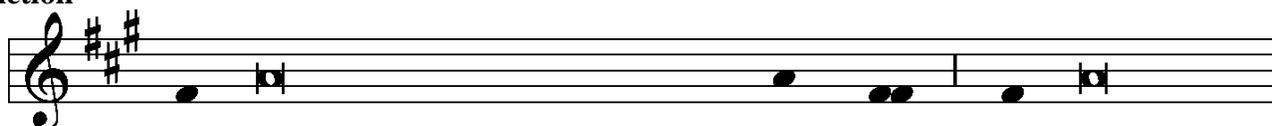


A Bless we the Lord.

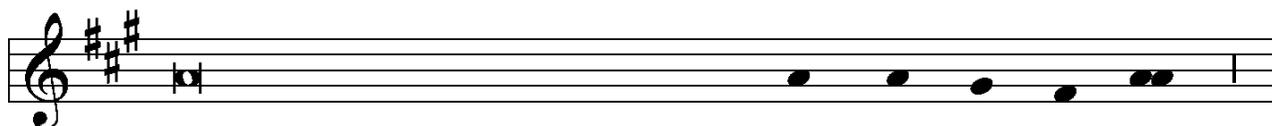


C Thanks be to God.

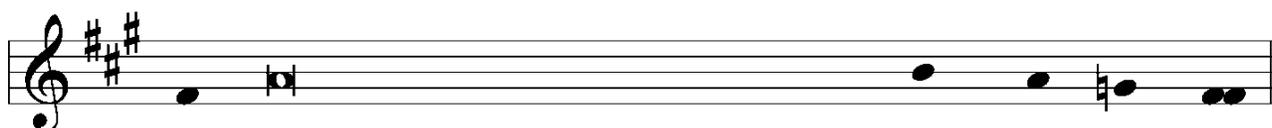
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!" Al - le -
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing! Al - le -
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Al - le -
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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OUR FAMILIES PRAY – THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED is confessed by all.

THE PSALM is prayed: Sun – 118:15-29; Mon – Ps. 100; Tues – Ps. 2; Wed – Ps. 61; Thurs – Ps. 33; Fri – Ps. 33 Sat. – Ps. 33

CATECHISM LEARN-BY-HEART:

Catechism Lesson: The Sacrament of the Altar –

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “Forgiveness of sins.”

BIBLE VERSE:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not participation in the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16

HYMN: Sun: 458; Mon: 463; Tues. 490; Wed. 485; Thurs. 470; Fri. 470 Sat. 470

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Easter Sunday – See Bulletin

Easter Monday – O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Easter Tuesday – Almighty God, through the resurrection of Your Son You have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of Your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Easter Wednesday – Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Thursday/Friday/Saturday – Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

IN YOUR PRAYERS:

For the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead to be on our lips and in our hearts

For the Gospel to be spread during these days

For our congregation during this time of separation

For the Holy Church throughout the World, For our Synod

For our families as we seek to live together in holy love and peace

For those who live alone

For our nation and communities as we look to God's mercy during this time of illness

For all doctors, nurses and medical personnel

For first responders in our communities

For the sick, the suffering, the dying of Covid-19

For our Pastors as they seek to bring the Word of God to us

For our School teachers and students and they teach online

Healing and Comfort for: ROGER BEST, brother-in-law of Dale & Shirley Lueker, hospitalized with pneumonia and blood clots; BRANDON CANN, US NAVY, grandson of Paul and Rose Cann, onboard the USS Teddy Roosevelt, TERRY ANN KNOTTS extended family member of Dave DeVries - cancer, ARLINE BLASE, health difficulties; CARL NIENHUSER, grandfather of Dawn Schnare & Danae Otten, leukemia; JULIA UBBENGA, sister of John Fluss, breast cancer SIDNEE SCHWARZ, health issues; GLENN ARMES, health issues; LEAH HOWTON, recovering from surgery; DALE GROTEFENDT, friend of Paula Kipp, taking chemo & radiation treatments & KAY GROTEFENDT, for strength as her husband undergoes treatments; KAYLEIGH MEINZEN, health issues; RANDY HELLINGER, recovering at home with health issues; TOMIKO JUEDEMANN, mother of Linda Behrhorst, cancer treatments; EMILY SCHWARZ, recovering from surgery; ELDON SCHMIDT, health issues; LISA PROFFER, sister of Aaron Hanks, recovering from mini-strokes; THOMAS SEXTON, grandchild of Keith and Judy (Sievers) Loemker, health issues; DORENE LANE, friend of Dave DeVries, preparing for knee replacement, heart and eye issues; MARY GRAFF, friend of Dave DeVries, began treatments for kidney and femur bone cancer, STEPHANIE VAN ULFT, treatments and health difficulties from said treatments; ELLEN MUTH, mother of Kantor Muth, declining health; JANE BILYEU, aunt of Beth Langendorf, health difficulties; BONNIE WILLIAMS, friend of Candy Esch, cancer; ALL EXPECTANT MOTHERS

St. Paul Lutheran Elderly Care List - Since all the nursing, independent/assisted live homes are closed to visitors please consider sending the dear members of our congregation a note or card, especially this Easter Season. For those parents looking for something to occupy their children's time have them draw or color a picture to send, with a Bible passage, picture or word of encouragement. What an easy way to bring someone joy and put a smile on their face. Following is a list of the St. Paul members who reside at a care facility.

Eden Village – Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

- Clara Wehrend – Care Center – 400 South Station Road – Room 513
- Glen & Thelma Wuehler – 300 South Station Rd. – Apt. 8202
- Marlene Hellmann – 407 B Eden Gardens

Meridian Village – Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

- Kathy Breen – Apt. 402 – 27 Auerbach Place
- Lynette Spudich – Apt. 422 – 27 Auerbach Place

Edwardsville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center – Edwardsville, IL 62025

- Ellen Buhrmann – 401 St. Mary Drive

ACC – Alhambra, Illinois 62001

- Eldon Schmidt – 417 East Main Street

Glenwood – Staunton, Illinois 62088

- Arline Blase – Apt. 45 – 18192 Renken Road
- Ruth Ernst – Apt. 27 – 18192 Renken Road
- Donna Hellinger – Apt. 51 – 18192 Renken Road
- Ruby Hering – Apt. 32 – 18192 Renken Road

Rosewood Care Center – Alton, Illinois 62002

- Lillian Schmidt – 3490 Humbert Road

Cedarhurst Assisted Living – Bethalto, Illinois 62010

- Nancy Engelke – Apt. #43 – 903 North Moreland Road

Alleluia Christ is Risen! May the Joy of our Risen Lord be yours this day and unto life everlasting. It is an Easter unlike any other we have experienced and we pray that we will never be separated like this again. Yet, Christ is risen. He has destroyed the power of death and in Him, we are not afraid.

Daily Services Continue at Noon – The Joy of Easter continues this week. Check in every day at noon. Easter Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are festival days all their own. Watch on FB live.

About the Hymn of the Day – *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands* – LSB 458

Blessed Martin Luther wrote the text of the hymn and its tune. It appeared for the first time in 1524 on a broadsheet, and so it can be assumed that he wrote it early that year for use at Eastertide. It appeared in the first Lutheran Hymnal, the *Walter Hymnal* in Wittenberg in 1524.

The hymn begins by echoing the words of St. Peter: “God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it” (Acts 2:24). Christ’s resurrection brings us life and salvation: “He will swallow up death forever” (Isaiah 25:8). In faith, the Christian joyfully praises the Lord.

Stanza 2 is filled with the Law’s harshest condemnation of sin and its consequence, death: “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

In Stanza 3 and 4, Luther restates in poetic form what he had written in *The Freedom of a Christian* (1520): *Here we have a most pleasing vision not only of communion but of a blessed struggle and victory and salvation and redemption. Christ is God and man in one person. He has neither sinned nor died, and is not condemned, and he cannot sin, die or be condemned; his righteousness, life and salvation are unconquerable, eternal and omnipotent. But the wedding ring of faith he shares in the sins, death and pains of hell which are his bride’s....He suffered, died, and descended into hell that he might overcome them all. Now since it was such a one who did all of this, and death and hell could not swallow him up, there were necessarily swallowed up by him in a mighty duel; for his righteousness is greater than the sins of all men, his life stronger than death, his salvation more invincible than hell.*

In Stanzas 5 and 6, Luther captures the biblical teaching of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12) and its connection to Christ’s victory on the cross over sin, death, and hell.

Finally, in Stanza 7, Luther interprets the Passover lamb imagery in light of the Sacrament of the Altar: “Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other!”

Each stanza ends with a bold Easter “Alleluia”: praise the Lord, for He is victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil!

Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns. Vol 1. CPH, 2019, pp. 331-332

Speaking of the Hymn – One year later in 1525, Luther quotes stanza 4 of his hymn in his Easter Sunday sermon, which was on April 16th of that year. Enjoy this bit of Luther’s Easter Sermon on St. Mark 16:1-8

But our righteousness has not other way than as the text says here, “Christ rose,” etc. This is ours. But the way and manner for us to get to God is that you believe that He has taken your sins on Himself and delivered you from death; then you become righteous. This righteousness retains its force and stays with you in time of trouble. For He does not rise in order to remain in death; then faith would be in vain, and we would all be lost. When He takes sin and death on Himself and lets Himself be killed, that innocence is too great and that work too strong. He swallows up death into Himself. He drowns sin and comes back to life. If He had not come back to life, I would not have been helped.

Thus we sing even today how death and life contended with each other and were entangled with each other. Christ was a person who could not die, since He was God, yet He was able to die, since He was a man. He could also not be found guilty as a sinner before God, for the power of sin is nothing other than when sin stings. So when the conscience stings, and you begin: “Sir, what have you done?” it is at once the case that sin is alive. This was impossible in Christ. No sin was able to sting Him, nor could he be declared guilty of any sin, for He was God and God certainly found Him acceptable. But since He was a man, He can also be blamed and charged with sin like any other man. Therefore, they struggle here and take turns with each other. Temporal death attacks Him, intends to devour Him, swallows Him up, but finds in Him not a temporal, but an eternal person who cannot die. Therefore death is mistaken about what happens; for in Christ, the vital power that devours death and proves too powerful for him was concealed. Previously, death opened wide its eyes, intending to swallow Him. Now, right when death thinks he has won, Christ emerges. Where now is death? Where now is the crime with which the Jews charged and condemned Him? Where is Pilate? Here is the resurrection. Death made a mistake and was swallowed up. Sin and guilt are gone.

Therefore we sing: “Death is swallowed up in life”. Innocence swallowed up guilt, blessing swallowed up curse, good swallowed up all evil. These things all happened in this Person, as Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 15:57: “Thanks be to God, who have us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” All depends on this sole Person, who secured our victory over death, sin, hell, and whatever assails us, however big it may be. *Luther’s Works*. Vol. 56 pp. 139-140.

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