

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado***

Easter Sunday Family Devotion in Absence

***The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 12, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 457 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

INTROIT HYMN *LSB 463 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 25:6-9*

⁶ 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. ⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.” (ESV)

GRADUAL HYMN *LSB 488 “He Is Arisen! Glorious Word”*

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:12-25*

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:1-18*

¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

SERMON

Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ Jesus truly died on the cross and was buried in the tomb. Mary Magdalene had seen where they put him before the stone was rolled over the entrance of his grave. On the third day, she went to the place but the stone was rolled away and the body of Jesus was not there. She ran to tell Peter and John that the body was missing. They all went and saw the empty tomb. But they still did not understand from the Old Testament Scriptures, namely Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, that Jesus had to rise from the dead. After Peter and John returned home, Mary saw two angels in the tomb where Jesus’ dead body had laid, and the resurrected Jesus appeared to her outside the grave.

Jesus told her, “Do not keep clinging to me, I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go, rather, to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God

and your God.” Jesus is still looking ahead. He still has one more thing to do to complete the redemption of mankind. By his resurrection, he has made us Christians to be his brothers, his divine siblings, so that by the power of his new indestructible and immortal life we would be made sons of his Father and his God. Through our Holy Baptism we have died with Christ, we have been buried with Christ, and we have been resurrected with Christ now by faith in our hearts ... and we will be in our bodies on the Last Day. And looking ahead to his ascension to God the Father, he would bring about the glorification of his humanity ... and ours in him. Together with Mary, we all need to not keep clinging to his pre-resurrected life, as if he were a mere prophet or holy man. Rather, we cling to him now by faith, to him who is resurrected and ascended to the realms of glory in heaven. For he has gone there, to prepare a place for you and for me and for all who believe and trust in him and his great works of salvation for us.

He will reappear in glory at the end of this world with the holy angels and the trumpet call of God. Our bodies will be raised, resurrected, imperishable and immortal just like him. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is no mere resuscitation; it is not like bringing a person back to life after flatlining in a hospital emergency room. Rather, it is real eternal life, which is incapable of ever dying again. And that is what we Christians have to look forward to in our resurrection on the Last Day. Our bodies that can and will die, will be raised to never die. The perishable will be clothed with the imperishable; our mortal flesh will become immortal. On that day, our Holy Baptism will effect its ultimate work, clothing our bodies with eternal life. On that day, we will ascend to our God, our heavenly Father, on that highest and holiest of all mountains. There our Father will have us feast with him at the marriage banquet of the Lamb. There we will eat the best of meats and the finest of wines. “On this mountain, he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all people, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the shame of his people from all the earth... In that day [we] will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in him and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.’”

Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

PRAYER HYMN *LSB 458 “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”*

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Ezekiel 37:1-14; 1 John 5:4-10;
John 20:19-31.

The liturgy is from *Lutheran Service Book Copyright* ©2006 and *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book* ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #14215.