

Easter Sunrise - Sunday, April 17th, 2022 – 7:00 am

Music Today

Mark Gould, Luke Schwerer, Celia Gould

As We Gather

We have gathered outside of the church today, following the ancient custom of the Church, which for two thousand years has gathered at the entrance of Christ's tomb at Easter sunrise to celebrate His resurrection. When we join in our opening hymn, we will walk into the sanctuary, as Jesus' followers walked to the tomb on the first Easter morning. As we gather, think about the despair and hopelessness that must have filled the hearts of Jesus' followers. Take note of how the somber darkness erupts in joyous light as we enter our worship space to celebrate the victory that is ours. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

[The congregation gathers outside next to a new fire, keeping Vigil as the sun comes up]

Pastor: "Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome." We are Easter people this day—people of the resurrection who are walking in the light of Christ. Joining our voices in praise at this, the earliest service of our Christian Year, is truly fitting. We pray to our victorious Lord: "Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church."

People: **O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light 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—Amen.**

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

[A taper is lit from the new fire and used to light the paschal (or Passover) candle.]

Pastor: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds. Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your blessing that all who in true faith share this morning in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ may be filled with Your heavenly blessing. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord—Amen!**

Processional Sound the Trumpet

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Call to Worship *(The sound of the trumpet blasts) **

Pastor: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

People: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Confession & Absolution *Romans 6:3–4*

Pastor: As we come together in the darkness of this morning, it is a present reminder of the darkness in our world and in our own souls, the darkness that led our Lord Jesus to willingly lay down His life for us.

Silence for personal confession

Pastor: We confess:

People: Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, we come before You and acknowledge the darkness that still maintains a foothold in our lives and is evidenced in our thoughts, words, and actions. Our lives do not always bear witness to the victorious power of Your resurrection. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us by the power of Your Spirit, so that we may walk in Your ways and reveal Your resurrection love to the world.

Pastor: People of God, the Christ who died and was buried on Good Friday was found to be alive on Sunday, and He continues to live among us. "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

People: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of our redeeming and resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, and with His power and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

People: Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858
 Tune: Public domain

Reflection

Pastor: On this most holy day, we can still hear the echoes of Jesus' words from the cross. We can still hear the echoes of the slamming of the tomb. But we know that tomb has been left empty and that Jesus speaks to us once again at break of day.

On this most holy day our Savior, Christ, the Lord, broke the power of death and in his descent into Hell, proclaimed victory over death for all creation. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Today we gather in the first celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the ancient Christian Church, worshipers would spend the entire night before Easter waiting and watching for the sunrise, at which time they would celebrate the first Communion meal of the Easter celebration. During this night-long vigil, those who had been prepared to join the Christian Church would be baptized, and the entire congregation would pass the hours listening to Scripture and be in prayer. Today the focus of our worship is on the close connection between our Baptism and being raised to new life in Christ Jesus.

Reader

Dyann Harp

The First Promise of the Savior

Genesis 3: 8-15

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the images of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord—Amen.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that

we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Almighty God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ, that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord—Amen.

The Death to Sin and Life in Christ

Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he

died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Almighty God, You made this most holy day to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever—Amen.

Song of the Day Jesus Christ Is Risen Today LSB 457



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!

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Latin, 14th cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707–88 Tune: Lyra Davidica, 1708, London Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 1-12

(Jesus Has Risen)

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

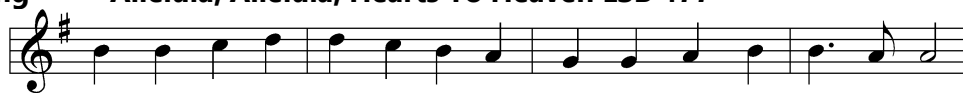
Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – APOSTLE’S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From
thence 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.**

Sharing God’s Peace

Offering Alleluia, Alleluia, Hearts To Heaven LSB 477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav’n and voic - es raise:

2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:

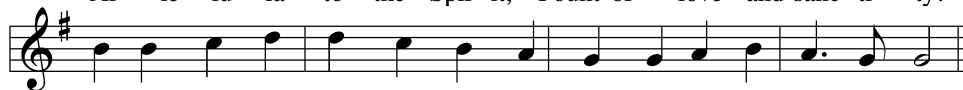
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow’rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world’s sal - va-tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world’s Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
[1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

Lord’s Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds LSB 465



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



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Tune: Public domain

Closing Prayer

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe. In love You have given Your Son, Jesus Christ, into death for us and raised Him to life again; so raise us from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit. Grant that the light of Christ shine in our hearts now and forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Benediction *Numbers 6:24–26*

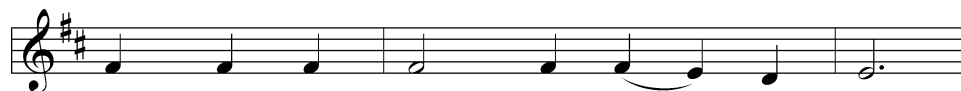
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Sending Song **The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done** *LSB 464*



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done;
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped,
4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell;
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed Thee,



Now is the vic - tor's tri - umph won;
But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed.
He ris - es glo - rious from the dead.
The bars from heav'n's high por - tals fell.
From death's dread sting Thy ser - vants free

The Refrain is repeated after st. 5.



Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
All glo - ry to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
Let hymns of praise His tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
That we may live and sing to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum, 1695, Köln; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909, alt. Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, c. 1525–1594, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Easter Affirmation *Romans 6:5, 9*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: **death no longer has dominion over Him.**

Pastor: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His,

People: **we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

***Trumpet**—The horn played for the call to service is a Biblical trumpet, traditionally called a Shofar; it is made from the horn of an African Kudu. A Shofar can be made from the horn of any ritually clean animal and is used to announce holidays (Psalm 81:3; Exodus 19:13), to start war or announce victory (Joshua 6:4-9), and is played in the temple orchestra (Psalm 150:3).

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