

EASTER VIGIL WORSHIP SERVICE, MARCH 30, 2024

(The congregation gathers in a convenient place outside the nave of the church. Where permissible, candles are given to all, later to be lighted from the paschal candle.)

(In the semidarkness a fire may be kindled.)

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

P Let us pray.

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, we implore You, 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.

C **Amen.**

(The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:)

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

(and then traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:)

P the Alpha and the Omega.

(He traces the year on the candle, saying:)

P His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

(He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:)

P By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

(Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:)

P May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(All light their candles from the paschal candle and then follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.)

(At the entrance of the nave, the bearer of the paschal candle stops and chants:)

A The light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(When the candle bearer reaches the middle of the nave, he chants for the second time:)

A The light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(When the candle bearer arrives at the candle stand, he turns to face the congregation.)

(After all have reached their places, the candle bearer lifts the candle high and chants the third time:)

A The light of Christ!

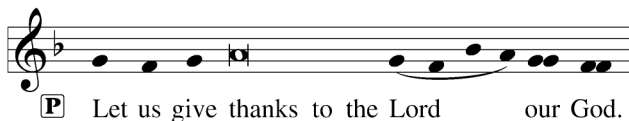
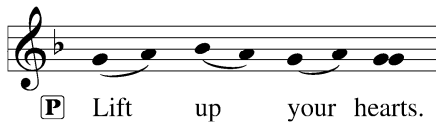
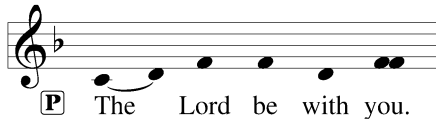
C **Thanks be to God!**

(After the candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand, the assistant turns to face the people and chants or speaks the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet).)

A Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

PREFACE

LSB 160



EASTER PROCLAMATION

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who

believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(All may extinguish their candles at this time. The paschal candle remains lighted throughout the service. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.)

(Sit)

(Candle Is Lit)

+ SERVICE OF READINGS +

P In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

THE CREATION

A A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

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 image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Candle Is Lit)

THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM

A A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Candle Is Lit)

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Candle Is Lit)

JOB CONFESSES THE REDEEMER

A A reading from Job, chapter 19.

My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh,
and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.
Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
Why do you, like God, pursue me?
Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

“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.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Candle Is Lit)

JONAH PREACHES TO NINEVEH

A A reading from Jonah, chapter three.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Candle Is Lit)

COME, YOU FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN **LSB 487** *sts. 1-4*



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547 Text and tune: Public domain

(During the canticle, the candle bearer carries the paschal candle to the font, followed by the pastor(s). If there are candidates for Baptism or confirmation, or if there are new members to be received, they also gather at the font, together with their sponsors and families.)

+ REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM +

P On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We 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. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Do you renounce the devil?

C **Yes, I renounce him.**

P Do you renounce all his works?

C **Yes, I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce all his ways?

C **Yes, I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

C **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C **Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C **Yes, 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.**

(Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:)

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

P Peace be with you.

C **Amen.**

(Following the Service of Holy Baptism, the candidates return to their places. The paschal candle is placed back in its stand, and the ministers return to their earlier stations.)

(Candle Is Lit)

+ SERVICE OF PRAYER +

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

A O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
A O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
A O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
A Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **hear us.**
A Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C **have mercy on us.**
A By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
A By Your victory over sin and death,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
A By the majesty of Your risen body,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
A We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
A That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
A That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
A That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy on us.**
 A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
 C **grant us Your peace.**
 A O Lord,
 C **have mercy.**
 A O Christ,
 C **have mercy.**
 A O Lord,
 C **have mercy. Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

(The Vigil continues with a brief service of the Word according to one of the settings of the Divine Service, allowing for the proclamation of the Easter Gospel. The service is abbreviated in the following manner:)

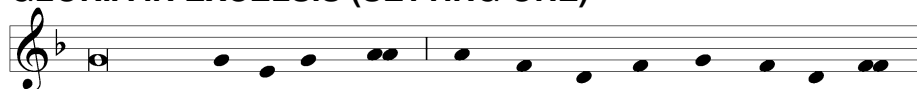
EASTER ACCLAMATION

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

(The altar candles may now be lighted from the paschal candle. Lights in the church are turned on, bells may be rung, the chancel may be decorated, and the altar may be prepared for the Sacrament while the congregation sings the Hymn of Praise.)

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (SETTING ONE)

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You made this most holy night 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.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And 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. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸And 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 to You, O Christ.**

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S PASCHAL HOMILY

In the name of the Father and of the (+)Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!)

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast.

If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord.

If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.
 If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward.
 If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast.
 If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof.
 If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing.
 If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour. And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering.
 Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away. Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.
 Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
 Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave.
 Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions.
 It was embittered, for it was abolished.
 It was embittered, for it was mocked.
 It was embittered, for it was slain.
 It was embittered, for it was overthrown.
 It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains.
 It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.
 O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?
 Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.
 Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.
 Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.
 Christ is risen, and life reigns.
 Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 For he arose from the dead and mounted up to the heights of heaven. When the Lord had clothed himself with humanity, and had suffered for the sake of the sufferer, and had been bound for the sake of the imprisoned, and had been judged for the sake of the condemned, and buried for the sake of the one who was buried, he rose up from the dead, and cried aloud with this voice: Who is he who contends with me? Let him stand in opposition to me. I set the condemned man free; I gave the dead man life; I raised up the one who had been entombed.
 Who is my opponent? I, he says, am the Christ. I am the one who destroyed death, and triumphed over the enemy, and trampled Hades under foot, and bound the strong one, and carried off man to the heights of heaven, I, he says, am the Christ. Therefore, come, all families of men, you who have been befouled with sins, and receive forgiveness for your sins.
 I am your forgiveness.
 I am the passover of your salvation.
 I am the lamb which was sacrificed for you.
 I am your ransom.
 I am your light.
 I am your savior.
 I am your resurrection.
 I am your king.
 I am leading you up to the heights of heaven. I will show you the eternal Father. I will raise you up by my right hand.
 This is the one who made the heavens and the earth,
 and who in the beginning created man,
 who was proclaimed through the law and prophets,
 who became human through the virgin,
 who was hanged upon a tree,

who was buried in the earth,
 who was resurrected from the dead,
 and who ascended to the heights of heaven,
 who sits at the right hand of the Father,
 who has authority to judge and to save everything, through whom the Father created everything from the beginning of the world to the end of the age.
 This is the alpha and the omega. This is the beginning and the end—an indescribable beginning and an incomprehensible end.
 This is the Christ.
 This is the king.
 This is Jesus.
 This is the general.
 This is the Lord.
 This is the one who rose up from the dead.
 This is the one who sits at the right hand of the Father. He bears the Father and is borne by the Father, to whom be the glory and the power forever. Amen.
 Alleluia! Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!)
 In the name of the Father and of the (+)Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

LSB 461



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!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793 Text and tune: Public domain

P Let us pray.

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



A Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.



P The al - mighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son,



and the Holy Spir - it, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

CHRIST JESUS LAY IN DEATH'S STRONG BANDS LSB 458 *sts. 1–5*



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
 5 Here our true Pas - chal Lamb we see, Whom God so free -



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,
 ly gave us; He died on the ac - curs - ed tree—



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
 So strong His love— to save us. See, His blood now



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,
 marks our door; Faith points to it; death pass - es o'er,



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!
 And Sa - tan can - not harm us. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
 Text and tune: Public domain

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