

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

We joyously greet all worshippers in the name of the risen Lord. Easter is the most glorious day in the Christian calendar. On this day we rejoice in Christ's victory over sin and death. Praise God with great enthusiasm. Christ is risen indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Hushed footsteps and subdued voices approach the tomb with ointment and spices for the dead, approach with caution and dread.

People: Christ is alive! His tomb is empty!

Pastor: Joy is unbound, only the signs of death remain, the wrappings and trappings of darkness and fear. Where have they taken the body?

People: Christ is alive! Death could not hold Him!

Pastor: Christ is risen, going on before us to Galilee and our town, walking on our streets and hiking up our paths.

People: He's not far off and remote, but near at hand in our lives.

Pastor: Run, walk, whisper and shout, tell the Good News to all. Christ is Alive!

People: Christ is alive! Let us rejoice!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

INVOCATION

Pastor: Holy God, as once long ago you turned a gray dawn into a springtime alleluia, so come to us this morning and turn our sadness into joy. The rock is rolled away! The tomb is empty! We've come to celebrate the rolling stone and to ask you to roll the stone away in our lives to allow the resurrection of ourselves as new creations in Jesus Christ to come forth. Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

HYMN – “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”



1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” Saints on earth and an - gels say;
2 Love’s re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo! Our Sun’s e - clipse is o’er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?

EASTER PRAYER

Pastor: God of amazing surprises and powerful love. Your Easter victory is our sign of hope. Your Easter triumph is our promise of new beginnings. Your Easter alleluia is unexpected, undeserved and graciously welcomed. We need Easter for we, too, know loss and grief. We need your Easter – The promise that dawn brings new possibilities, the assurance that your love is stronger than death, the hope that every day might be touched by Easter joy. Our words seem too timid and our songs not loud enough to trumpet our joy, to express our alleluias. Let everyone feel the possibilities for living life surrounded by powerful love and surprising grace. In the name of our Risen Lord.

All - Amen.

EASTER READING – *Matthew 28:1-10*

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them.

“Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON – *Pastor Ethan Spira*

CREED - *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 worshipped 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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *"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



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



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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

P May alleluias ring from shore to shore.
May trumpets echo from mountain to mountain.
May every heart know that Christ is risen.
And may you never be afraid for Christ has triumphed over
the grave.

C Amen.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE – “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!

WORDS OF DEPARTURE

Pastor: He Is Risen!

People: He Is Risen Indeed!

POSTLUDE

HE
IS
RISEN!

