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EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

IF...THEN...

April 12, 2020

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Corinthians 15:17). This is the great "IF" of Easter. Let us listen to the Easter accounts to know with certainty that Christ has been raised. That certainty creates the great THEN of Easter. IF Christ has been raised, THEN we have great news to share!

The Great IF of Easter

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 16:9-10

Isaiah 53:10-11

HYMN

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, Tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, Tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?**

First Candle

If the tomb is empty, then someone stole the body.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-4; 11-15

Jesus Has Risen

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

²There 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The Guards' Report

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Second Candle

If the tomb is empty, then the prophecies are true.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-9

The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

EASTER HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From this world to the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light
And, list'ning to his accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.**

Third Candle

If the Savior has risen, then "why are you crying?"

GOSPEL

John 20:11-18

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

EASTER HYMN

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

**I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!**

**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.**

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save.
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

Fourth Candle

If Jesus has risen, then there is hope for sinners!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12

Jesus Has Risen

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " ⁸Then they remembered his words.

⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

M Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

M This is the day that the LORD has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M Jesus was delivered over to death for our transgressions

C **And raised to life for our justification.**

M Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

C through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand
(Romans 4:25-5:1).

M Let there be no more fear or trembling! With Peter let us run with our burden of sin and guilt to the empty tomb and there find access into God's forgiving love.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful. Like the Apostle Peter, I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. By thoughts, words and actions I have denied you as my Lord. Hear me as I confess to you the sin and guilt that most burden my heart today.**

A moment for silent, private confession

For the sins I know and for those sins of which I am not aware, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my risen Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to you as he was merciful to the Apostle Peter. Jesus willingly became the atoning sacrifice for your sin. His resurrection declares to you that the punishment for your sins has been paid. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Jesus has risen. I am forgiven. I am a saint in my Father's eyes. Alleluia!**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

EASTER HYMN

**He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened Death's prison, the Incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song,
And, earth, sea, and mountain, the paeon prolong.**

**The Foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**

**But short was their triumph, the Savior arose,
And Death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes;
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high.
He lives, yea, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

Oh, where is thy sting, Death? We fear thee no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door,
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Fifth Candle

If the Messiah has entered his glory, then all God's Word is true.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-27

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Sixth Candle

If there is a multitude of witnesses, then we can be sure!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas,^[b] and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

EASTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

1 Corinthians 15

M Having heard the witnesses, let us confess what we believe to be true:

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

M Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

C For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive...

M We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

C For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

M When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

C "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

EASTER HYMN

I Will Rise

**There's a peace I've come to know
Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say "It is well"**

**Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead**

**And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise...I will rise**

**There's a day that's drawing near
When this darkness breaks to light
And the shadows disappear
And my faith shall be my eyes**

**Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead**

**And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise...I will rise**

And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb!"

And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise...I will rise

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

C Christ is risen!

M He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

C Alleluia!

M With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt.

C You are risen!

M Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

C You are risen indeed!

M Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

C Alleluia!

M Holy Spirit, keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

C As we journey through life, make us eager for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

C **Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia! Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Candle

If Jesus has risen, then we have good news to share!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:28-39

On the Road to Emmaus

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

(Pastor)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. Amen.

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

We desire to serve you in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Or you may contact us anytime via our website [here](#).



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WITH US!

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile”
(1 Corinthians 15:17).

Let God’s Word continue to give you an answer to this great
“if” of Easter.



Join us in the following weeks as we see the change...as we see the “then” that Jesus’ resurrection brings to our lives:

- Then I live in hope – 1 Peter 1:3-9 (April 19)
- Then I live a new life – 1 Peter 1:17-25 (April 26)
- Then I entrust my life to the Good Shepherd – 1 Peter 2:19-25 (May 3)
- Then I live a meaningful life – 1 Peter 2:4-10 (May 10)
- Then I live always prepared to answer – 1 Peter 3:15-22 (May 17)
- Then I will end my life well – 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11 (May 24)

Online Worship

All online worship resources are available on our [website](#).

We encourage you to participate in worship at the time you would normally worship. The worship folders for all services are available for download on our website for you to follow along.

The Bridge, our modern/casual worship experience, is livestreamed on Sunday at 10:15 am on The Bridge [website](#), Facebook at The Bridge at St. Paul’s, and now also on our [You Tube channel](#). The service also available for viewing later at any time on each platform.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please don’t hesitate to contact one of our pastors or use the contact form at the bottom of our [website](#). We have a team of dedicated prayer warriors ready to pray for you. If you would like to keep your prayer requests confidential among the pastors, check the applicable box.