



Sunday, March 31, 2024
Easter Sunrise

Service Theme
Jesus' Resurrection Has Meaning

Today we celebrate, through Scripture and song, the resurrection of our Saviour and what it means for us.

Call To Worship & Opening Verses

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen!

P: People of God – The Lord is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day the Lord has made. (*Psalm 118:24a*)

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Psalm 118:24b*)

P: I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. (*Exodus 15:1,2*)

C: Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song. (*Psalm 95:2*)

P: The Lord's right hand is majestic in power. The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy. In the greatness of his majesty he threw down those who opposed him. (*cf. Exodus 15:6*)

C: Death has been swallowed up in victory. (*1 Corinthians 15:54*)

P: The Lord will not abandon me to the grave. He has made known to me the path of life. (*Psalm 16:10,11*)

C: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (*John 20:29*)

P: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? (*1 Corinthians 15:55*)

C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (*1 Corinthians 15:57*)

- P: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. (*Job 19:25*)
- C: **The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.** (*Revelation 11:15*)
- P: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. (*Revelation 7:10*)
- C: **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!** (*Revelation 5:12*)
- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Hymn

CW 150 "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

- 1 **Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
See the place where he was laid; Alleluia!
Praise him for the ransom paid. Alleluia!**
- 2 **For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinners' stead. Alleluia!
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**
- 3 **Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled. Alleluia!
While, in strange and awefull strife, Alleluia!
Met together death and life. Alleluia!**
- 4 **Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia!
Now the firstborn from the dead, Alleluia!
Throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!
Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Account of Easter Day

The First Lesson

“Jesus Appears to the Women at the Grave”
Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 – select verses

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?" But when the women looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

When they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord

Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their face to the ground, but the men said to them, "Do not be afraid. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid, Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

P: This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

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

Hymn

CWS 719 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,

Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

2 For three long days the grave did its worst

Until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death undergo.

And in its conquest his might did show.

Refrain

**3 The angel said to them, “Do not fear.
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.
Only the grave cloths are lying there.”**

Refrain

**4 “Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won.”**

Refrain

**5 Christ has arisen; he sets us free.
Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.**

Refrain

The Second Lesson

“Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene”

John 20:1-18

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. So 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!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

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." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "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."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

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

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

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

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

Hymn

“Morning Breaks upon the Tomb” (CW 159)

**1 Morning breaks upon the tomb;
Jesus scatters all its gloom.
Day of triumph through the skies,
See the glorious Savior rise.**

**2 You who are of death afraid,
Triumph in the scattered shade.
Drive your anxious cares away;
See the place where Jesus lay.**

**3 Christian, dry your flowing tears;
Chase your unbelieving fears.
Look on his deserted grave;
Doubt no more his pow’r to save.**

**4 Morning breaks upon the tomb;
Jesus scatters all its gloom.
Day of triumph through the skies,
See the glorious Savior rise.**

The Third Lesson

“Jesus Appears to the Emmaus Disciples”

Luke 24:13-35

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

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

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

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. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 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. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

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

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 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?"

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

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

Hymn

CWS 720 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

1 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands

For our offenses given;

But now at God's right hand he stands

And brings us life from heaven.

Therefore let us joyful be

And sing to God right thankfully

Loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 No son of man could conquer death,

Such ruin sin had wrought us.

No innocence was found on earth,

And therefore death had brought us

Into bondage from of old

And ever grew more strong and bold

And held us as its captive. Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down,

His people to deliver;

Destroying sin, he took the crown

From death's pale brow forever.

Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;

An empty form alone remains;

Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**4 It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended.
The victory remained with life;
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly says
That death is swallowed up by death;
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong his love—to save us.
See, his blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**6 So let us keep the festival
To which the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Sermon Text & Theme
1 Corinthians 15:51-58 EHV

Christ's Resurrection Means:

- 1) *Your past is forgiven.*
- 2) *Your future is made secure.*
- 3) *Your present has purpose.*

⁵¹ Look, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But once this perishable body has put on imperishability, and this mortal body has put on immortality, then what is written will be fulfilled: Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C: **He was delivered over to death for our sins, and raised to life for our justification.**

P: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power which raised him from the dead.

C: **We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.**

P: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

P: With the church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt. 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: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

(Special intercessions may follow)

P: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen lord.

C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

P: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ. 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!

P: Gracious Lord, we now pray the prayer you have taught us to pray:

**C: 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.**

Hymn

CW 143 "He's Risen, He's risen"

**1 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 praises prolong.**

**2 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.**

**3 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, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.**

**4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you 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.**

**5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.**

Confession and Absolution Before Communion

(Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to personally pronounce forgiveness to each one of us. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess, because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent, because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so then answer, “I do so promise!”

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise, because God’s Word says, *“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”* (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Hymn before Distribution

CW 141: 1-2 "At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his piercé side. Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight;
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!**

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Hymn after Distribution

CW 141:4-5 "At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!**

Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

Closing Prayer

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we give you praise and thanks for your glorious resurrection from the dead and for the opportunity once again to hear this good news and rejoice in it. As through your death our sins were buried with you, but now through your resurrection sin and death are left behind, so may we now live our lives in the resurrection joy, continually putting off the old and striving to live a new and holy life which reflects glory to your name, until we also rise and reign with you in everlasting joy and happiness; in your name we pray, you, who live and reign with the Father and the Spirit as one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn

CW162 "He Is Arisen! Glorious Word"

**He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear What cheer!
Christ victorious, Rising glorious,
Life is giving.
He was dead, but now is living!**

Easter Flowers

You are encouraged to take your plants home after the Easter Worship service. Any plants not taken away by the end of day on April 7th will need to be disposed of.

Church Cleaners:

April 7 - John // April 14 - Simon

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

**Su (31) 8:00 am Easter Sunrise (with
Communion)**

9:00 am Easter Breakfast

10:30 am Easter Late (no Communion)

3:00 pm Easter Worship in Poltimore

Th (4) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfields Manor

6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (5) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Su (7) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class

10:30 am Worship (with Communion)

11:30 am First Fellowship

3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore

Pastors Conference in Mississauga from April 8-10

Th (11) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (12) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

6:00 pm Friday Fellowship

Su (14) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class

10:30 am Worship



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