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**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

Meaning of Easter in Lessons and Songs

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Service Theme

**WHAT IS EASTER ALL ABOUT?**

Using a series of seven lessons and hymns, let us explore the meaning, purpose, and hope Christ's resurrection has for us.

## Invocation & Greeting

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

**C: Amen!**

P: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

P: This is the day the LORD has made;

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

## Opening Hymn

*CW 157:1-2* “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!**

**Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!**

**Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!**

**Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!**

**Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!**

**Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!**

**Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

## Opening Prayer

P: Lord Jesus, ever living friend,

**C: Fill our hearts with joy and trust as we meditate on the glory of your resurrection.**

P: May your gospel today speak peace, comfort and forgiveness to our souls.

**C: Give us, by the power of your resurrection, the strength to overcome every evil and walk with you in true righteousness. Amen.**

## The Easter Verses

P: He is not here, He is risen!

**C: Come see the place where they laid Him!**  
*(Matthew 28:6)*

P: He was pierced for our transgressions:

**C: He was crushed for our iniquities.** *(Isaiah 53:5a)*

P: The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him:

**C: And by His wounds we are healed.** *(Isaiah 53:5b)*

P: He was delivered over to death for our sins:

**C: And was raised to life for our justification.**  
*(Romans 4:25)*

P: I know that my Redeemer lives,

**C: And that in the end He will stand upon the earth.** *(Isaiah 19:25)*

P: Where, O Death, is your victory?

**C: Where, O Death, is your sting?** *(1 Corinthians 15:55)*

P: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

**C: Will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** *(Romans 8:38-39)*

Hymn  
CW 146 “His Battle Ended There”

**1 His battle ended there, death was overcome.  
Jesus, alive again, wore the victor’s crown.  
Clearly sin had failed; Goodness had prevailed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2 Dread pow’rs of death and sin had him in their hold.  
When Jesus rose again all their plans were foiled.  
Jesus lived again, Triumphed over sin.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**3 Dead in the grave he lay, mourned by ev’ry friend.  
Those dark and fearful days then did reach their end.  
God raised him to life, Victor in the strife.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**4 He burst the chains of sin, opened death’s dark jail.  
God filled him with new life, life that could not fail.  
Right before their eyes Jesus did arise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Part One  
Easter is about Jesus’ Empty Tomb  
*Mark 16:2-6 EHV*

<sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They were saying to each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb for us?” <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

<sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Hymn Response

CW 165:1-3, 9 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

*(Pastor)*

O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*(Women)*

**On that first morning of the week,  
Before the day began to break,  
The Marys went their Lord to seek.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*(Men)*

**An angel bade their sorrow flee,  
For thus he spoke unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*(All)*

**On this most holy day of days  
To God your hearts and voices raise  
In laud and jubilee and praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Part Two

Easter is about the Forgiveness of Sins  
*1 Corinthians 15:17-20 & Romans 4:25 EHV*

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. <sup>19</sup> If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>25</sup> He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification.

### Hymn Response

*CW 163:1,3-4 "Welcome, Happy Morning"*

**1 "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"  
Lo, the Dead is living, God forevermore!  
Him, their true Creator, All his works adore.  
"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"**

**3 He, of life the author, Death did undergo,  
Trode the path of darkness, Saving strength to show.  
Come, then, True and Faithful, Now fulfill your word;  
This is your third morning—Rise, O buried Lord!  
"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"**

**4 Free the souls long prisoned, Bound with Satan's  
chain;  
All that now is fallen Raise to life again.  
Show your face in brightness; Shine in ev'ry land  
As in Eden's garden When the world began.  
"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"**

Part Three

Easter is about Victory over Death

*1 Corinthians 15:55-57 & 2 Timothy 1:10b EHV*

<sup>55</sup> Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our Savior Christ Jesus ... abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Hymn Response

CWS 752 "In Christ Alone"

**1 In Christ alone my hope is found.  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**2 In Christ alone—who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on him was laid.  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**3 There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am his and he is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
Till he returns or calls me home,  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

Part Four

Easter is about the End of Fear

*Matthew 28:1-10 EHV*

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. <sup>7</sup> Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!" <sup>8</sup> They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."



Hymn Response  
CW21 451 "See What a Morning"

**1 See, what a morning, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem:  
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,  
As the Angels announce, "Christ is risen"  
See God's salvation plan,  
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**2 See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:  
"It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!"  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
Will sound 'til He appears,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**3 One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise  
To the King crowned with power and authority!  
And we are raised with Him:  
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.  
And we shall reign with Him  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!  
And we are raised with Him;  
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.  
And we shall reign with Him,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

## Part Five

### Easter is about the Sorrow Turned into Joy *John 20:10-18 EHV*

<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She told them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and replied in Aramaic, “*Rabboni!*” (which means, “Teacher”). <sup>17</sup> Jesus told her, “Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” She also told them the things he said to her.

## Hymn Response

*CW 160:1-2* “This Joyful Eastertide”

**This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow.**

*Refrain*

**Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

**Death's flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver.**

*Refrain*

Part Six

Easter is about Living a New Life

*Romans 6:1-4, 8-11 EHV*

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

<sup>8</sup> And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hymn Response

CW 147:2,4 "Like The Golden Sun Ascending"

**Thanks to you, O Christ victorious!**

**Thanks to you, O Lord of Life!**

**Death has now no power o'er us,**

**You have conquered in the strife.**

**Thanks because you did arise**

**And have opened paradise!**

**None can fully sing the glory**

**Of the resurrection story.**

**Grant me grace, O blessed Savior,**

**And your Holy Spirit send**

**That my life and my behavior**

**May be pleasing to the end,**

**That I may not fall again**

**Into death's grim pit and pain,**

**Whence by grace you have retrieved me**

**And from which you have relieved me**

Part Seven

Easter is about Our Resurrection Hope

*1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 & John 11:25-26 EHV*

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. <sup>15</sup> In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?"

Hymn Response

CW 152:1-2,7-8 "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 triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save.  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death.  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring my safely there.**

**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!"**

Prayer

**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:** For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**C: He is risen indeed!**

- M: He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.
- C: Alleluia!**
- M: 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.**
- M: 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.**
- 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, 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.**
- M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
- C: He is risen!**

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

**C: He is risen indeed!**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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.**

### 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**

### The Blessing

P: 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 give you  
peace

**C: Amen.**

Hymn

CW/21 453 "The Tomb is Empty"

**1 The tomb is empty, is empty!**

**Come and see where once the body lay.**

**Can it be true, be true,**

**that Jesus Christ is raised to life today?**

**Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!**

**2 The tomb is empty, is empty!**

**Come and hear these words of life and peace:**

**"He is not here, not here.**

**He lives again in all your Galilees."**

**Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!**

**3 The tomb is empty, is empty!**

**Come and touch the stone and folded shroud.**

**Christ lives, indeed, indeed. Alleluia!**

**Believers, shout aloud.**

**Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!**

**4 The tomb is empty, is empty!**

**Come and meet the risen Christ our Lord**

**in whom we have, we have our victory,**

**in whom is life restored.**

**Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!**

**5 The tomb is empty, is empty!**

**Go and serve all people who long to be free!**

**Raise those who sleep, who sleep in tombs of fear,**

**and give them eyes to see!**

**Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!**

**The tomb is empty... (*Repeat and fade*)**



**Divine Word**

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## **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**