

Easter Bulletin
April 12, 2020

PRELUDE: Pastorale (Cesar Franck)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved church,
behold the victory of our God:
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love, Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness
that we may enter through them.

Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit
we have been raised from the waters of baptism
to share in your glorious resurrection.
Yet we have not lived as Easter people.
We are unsure of your promise,
confused about your will,
and afraid in the face of danger.
Like Mary, we weep at the tomb,
but do not recognize your presence.
Call us by name, risen Lord,
that we may know you with confidence.
Whenever we are tempted to fear death,
give us courage to confess your Easter victory.
Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts,
keep our minds on your reconciling love.
Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil,
reveal again to us your triumph
over the destructive powers of oppression.
Forgive us our sin and let our lives
be a testimony to your salvation
through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Listen, church:

God who raised Jesus from the dead has not
given us over to death.

This is the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(If you are on facebook, please register your peace with each other)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Coffee Hour today

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,
by the power of your Spirit
roll away the stone
and reveal to us the Word of Life.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 28.1-10

SERMON

HYMN *to the tune Aurelia (The Church's One Foundation)*

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.

We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.

We're distant from our neighbors— from worship leaders, too.

No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.

O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?

With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place

we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

**Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.**

**Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see—
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.**

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:

Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.

Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!

Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

**We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.**

In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,

we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he arose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty,
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(If you are on facebook, please register your prayer requests)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing

HYMN 233 The Day of Resurrection

1. The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over,
with hymns of victory.
2. Let hearts be purged of evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin;
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen

their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

CHARGE

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Tu es petra et portae inferi non praevallebunt adversus te [You are the Rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against You] (Henri Mulet)

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Matthew 28:1-10

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”