



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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March 31, 2024

The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunrise

Stand

Easter Greeting

- P Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

- P This is the day the Lord has made;
C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

- P May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God.**

- A Rejoice all heavenly choirs of angels and celebrate the victory of so great a King.
C **Exult also, O earth, enlightened with such a radiance; and know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world.**

- A Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with Christ's brightness, and resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.
C **Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Sit

T Service of the Word T

Hearing and reflecting on God's gift of life and salvation

First Reading

Genesis 1:1—2:3

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Genesis 2:4–25

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading

Genesis 9:8–17

⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again

shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us and sing: Alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds rich blessings on our way, Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow,
Let them his praise abundant show.
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 6 And you, most kind and gentle death,
Waiting to hush our final breath, Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
You lead to heav'n the child of God,
Where Christ our Lord the way has trod.
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Fourth Reading

Exodus 14:10–14, 19—15:1a

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

Exodus 15:1b–2, 6, 11, 13, 17, 18

read responsively

P "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

C **the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.**

P ²The LORD is my strength and my song,

C **and he has become my salvation;**

P this is my God, and I will praise him,

C **my father's God, and I will exalt him.**

P ⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,

C **your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.**

P ¹¹"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?

C **Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?**

P ¹³"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;

C **you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.**

P ¹⁷You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,

C **the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,**

P the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

C **¹⁸The LORD will reign forever and ever."**

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Fifth Reading

Jonah 3

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 20:1–9

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn: 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

LSB 461 sts. 1–2, 7–8

- 1 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.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 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!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.

Text: Public domain

Homily

Renewal of Baptism Vows

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P Holy God, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created all things. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved your chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea into the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized and anointed with the Spirit. By his death and resurrection he has set us free from sin and death and opened the way to everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth when he commanded us to baptize. Pour out your Holy Spirit that all those who are baptized may rejoice in their new life. Wash away their sin and make them inheritors of your glorious kingdom.
- C **To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Stand While the creed is spoken, pastor will sprinkle water on the people as a reminder of baptism.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of the world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Sit

Prayer of the Church

Worshippers will be given an opportunity to request prayers for individuals and situations and Pastor will lead all by saying:

P *Let us pray to the Lord,*

C **Lord, have mercy.**

or

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord,*

C **Thank you, Lord.**

T Service of the Sacrament T

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent to save and redeem us.

C **He is your Word, inseparable from you.
Through Him you created all things, and in Him you
take delight.**

P He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot.

C **It is He, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will;
He stretched out His hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.**

P It is He who, handed over to a death He freely accepted,
in order to destroy death,

C **to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot,
to give light to the righteous, to establish His covenant,
and to show forth His resurrection,**

P taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

"Take and eat; this is My T body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

"This is My T blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

Remembering then, His death and resurrection, we lift this
bread and cup before you and we ask you:

C **Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;**

P fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

C **Through Him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, both now
and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The elements will be distributed at a station. Come forward as directed and receive the bread, dip it into the wine (intinction) and then place the wafer into your mouth and return to your place.

Closing

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, Father, T Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgments

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