

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for Holy Week

Easter Sunday: Mercy in the Open Tomb

Order of Service

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5-6

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever!

C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!

P Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!

P The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

C Because he lives, we shall live also.

P The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

C Because he lives, we shall live also.

P The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

C Because he lives, we shall live also.

P I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

C Because he lives, we shall live also.

P The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!

P This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!

P This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!

P Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* *LSB #457*

Jesus Christ is risen 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!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

P On this day we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the grave. But we also remember why he went to the grave. We acknowledge that our sins were the reason for his suffering and death. And so we confess those sins to God and seek his mercy.

C Most merciful God, it is our sins that put Jesus on the cross. It is because of our transgressions that his lifeless body was placed in the tomb. We confess our guilt and acknowledge the gravity of our sin. For the sake of Christ crucified and risen from the dead, forgive our iniquity and restore us in righteousness. Through the power of his resurrection enable us to walk in newness of life, to the glory of your holy name.

P We cry to you for mercy.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and justifies you, making you holy in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Exodus 15:1-18

Epistle Reading ... Romans 6:3-11

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 28:1-10

Hymn: Christ the Lord Is Ris'n Today! LSB #469

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply.

Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er; lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save; where thy victory, O grave?

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n! Praise to thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the resurrection, thou!

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Risen Christ, we rejoice at your victory over sin. United with you in baptism, may we consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Living Lord, we celebrate your triumph over death. As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, may we walk in newness of life. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Victorious Deliverer, we acclaim your defeat of the devil. Trusting in your declaration of justification, may we live in freedom from the accusation of guilt. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Loving Redeemer, we affirm your rescue of us from hell. May we never fear the grave or what follows but eagerly anticipate our own resurrection and life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Mighty Conqueror, we hail you as King of kings and Lord of lords. May we serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives and into eternity. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P In view of your mercy, move us by your Spirit to face death with hope in the sure and certain promise of life everlasting through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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

Holy Communion (p. 194)

Distribution Hymns: *I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table* LSB #618

Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds LSB #465

Benediction

P May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever (Hebrews 13:20-21).

C Amen.

Hymn: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* LBS #461, vv. 1-3,7-8

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 to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

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.

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!