

# EASTER SUNRISE

April 16, 2017

## Worship Focus

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!**



Calvary Lutheran Church and School  
9807 Church Road, Dallas, TX 75238  
214-348-5567



## **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

The faithful last gathered for a Service of Darkness (Tenebrae). Darkness fell on the earth as God the Father executed his just punishment for the sins of the world on his Son. Creation groaned as its Creator suffered the “God forsaken-ness” of hell. Yet, in a move of utter simplicity and depth, the Light of the world declared “It is finished” and commended himself into the hands of his Father. The images of Light and Darkness, so powerful throughout Scripture, come especially alive in these last Three Days of Holy Week. The faithful eagerly anticipate the shattering of the Darkness by the Light who comes back to life. This is the message of Easter, proclaimed so powerfully at Sunrise! The Light has come! Darkness has been defeated! Christ is risen, he is risen, indeed!

With such powerful imagery, the church held a long-standing tradition of baptizing catechumens (those undergoing Christian instruction) at dawn of Easter morning. With darkness dispersing on one end of the earth and light dawning on the other, the catechumens would face the darkness and renounce the Devil, the prince of the dark world. Then, turning toward the light they would enter the waters and be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God, through water and his Word, had actually worked in their hearts what they confessed with their mouths - a complete turning from sin, death and the devil and a turning toward a new life in Christ. Throughout the Old Testament, God had foreshadowed this victory of the Light over Darkness in his great acts of deliverance, many of which used water, an additional foreshadowing of God’s work in baptism. In the New Testament, Paul’s words in Romans 6 make it clear that baptism gives us each a personal stake in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For this reason, Easter sunrise affords God’s people an excellent opportunity to review, renew and re-enunciate their baptismal confession.

Today’s Easter sunrise service seeks to incorporate these images. The resurrection of Christ is that alone which gives these images their truth and strength. Today, as the light of Christ shines in his triumphant victory over the grave, may we reflect that light as we live our baptismal confession.

# SERVICE OF LIGHT

## The Christ Candle, a Sign of the Presence of the Risen Christ among Us

HYMN

150 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day;  
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled,      Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed,  
4 Christ, who once for sin - ners bled,



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way;  
Sin - less in the sin - ners' stead.      Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.  
Now the first-born from the dead,



See the place where he was laid;  
"Christ is ris'n," to - day we cry;      Al - le - lu - ia!  
While, in strange and awe - full strife,  
Throned in end - less might and pow'r,



Praise him for the ran - som paid.  
Now he lives, no more to die.      Al - le - lu - ia!  
Met to - geth - er death and life.  
Lives and reigns for - ev - er - more.

Text: Latin sequence, 11th century, abr.; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.  
Tune: LLANFAIR (77 77 with Alleluias) Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821.

PLEASE STAND FOR THE FINAL STANZA

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## RESPONSIVE VERSES AND PRAYER

**M** Christ is risen!

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

**M** Brothers and sisters in Christ:

On this joyous morning, we celebrate that our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life. We join with all of God's people in recalling and celebrating his victory over death, and our deliverance from the bondage of sin and darkness to everlasting light.

**C** **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

**M** Eternal Lord of Life, through your Son you have given your people the brightness of your light. Kindle in us a holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.

**C** **Amen.**

**M** The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

BE SEATED

## FESTIVAL HYMN OF LIGHT

147 (1) – Like the Golden Sun Ascending

**Like the golden sun ascending,  
Breaking through the gloom of night,  
On the earth its glory spending  
So that darkness takes to flight,  
Thus my Jesus from the grave  
And death's dismal, dreadful cave  
Rose triumphant Easter morning  
At the early purple dawning.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M** Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion, now and forever. By his wounds we are healed now and forever. Amen.

*Motioning toward the Christ candle, the minister says:*

**M** May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**M** Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this day in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### The Lighting of the Altar Candles

*As the minister and congregation speak the following responses, the altar candles are lit:*

**M** The light of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**M** The light of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SONG OF PRAISE

147 (2,5) – 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.

For the joy your advent gave me,  
For your gospel's great reward,  
For your baptism which has saved me,  
For your supper and your Word,  
For your death, the bitter scorn,  
For your resurrection morn;  
Lord, I thank you and extol you,  
And in heav'n I shall behold you.

STAND

## **EXSULTET (REJOICE)**

**M** Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.

Rejoice, too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.

Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**M** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**M** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and your one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

For he is the true Paschal Lamb who offered himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of his precious blood.

This is the day when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground.

This is the day when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.

This is the day when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.

Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave you gave your Son.

How holy is this day when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.

How holy is this day when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.

How blessed is this day when man is reconciled to God in Christ.

Holy Father, accept now the morning sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise.

Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts, he who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

BE SEATED

## SONG OF PRAISE

162 – He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled  
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.  
My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -  
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.  
Oh, hear What cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,  
Life is giv - ing. He was dead, but now is liv - ing!

Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.  
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

# SERVICE OF LESSONS

## Old Testament Texts that Foreshadow Our Deliverance and Rescue by Jesus

**M** On this most holy day our Savior, Christ, the Lord, broke the power of death and by his resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for he truly keeps his word. The sun of righteousness has dawned on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

### THE FLOOD Genesis 7:1-5, 11-12; 8:13-18; 9:8-13

**M** Let us pray. O Lord, whose wrath burned against the evil of humanity, you kill and bring again to life according to your own purpose; you brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation and yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Gather your elect into your Church and so complete your work of mercy that the ends of the earth may know your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### HYMN RESPONSE

160 – This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and  
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the  
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill  
slum - ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor - row.  
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er.  
Shall wake the dead in num - ber.



*Refrain*

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three - day  
 pris - on, Our faith had been in vain: But  
 now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -  
 ris - en; But now is Christ a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934.

Tune: VRUECHTEN (67 67 with Refrain) *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1684.

## ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

**M** Let us pray. O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of our Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to make them children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.



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# HYMN RESPONSE

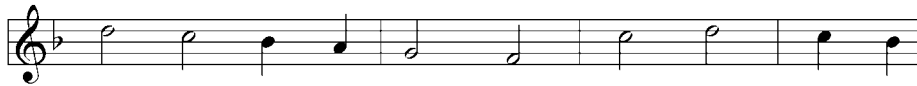
142 – Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant  
 2 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is  
 3 But to - day a - mong his own Christ ap - peared, be -



glad - ness! God has brought his Is - ra - el  
 fly - ing From his light, to whom we give  
 stow - ing Bless - ed peace, which ev - er - more



In - to joy from sad - ness. See the spring of  
 Laud and praise un - dy - ing. Nei - ther could the  
 Pass - es hu - man know - ing. Come, you faith - ful,



souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on And from  
 gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal Nor the  
 raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness! God has



three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en.  
 watch - ers nor the seal Hold him as a mor - tal.  
 brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, adapt.  
 Tune: GAUDEAMUS PARITER (76 76 D Trochaic) Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547.



[Easter Sunrise – 10]

## FAITH STRAINED BUT VICTORIOUS

Job 19:20-27

**M** Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death to life. Give your servants patience and endurance that, looking in faith to your Son, we may see beyond the trials of this life to the joys of the life to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

STAND

## SONG OF PRAISE

152 (1,2,5,8) – I Know that My Redeemer Lives

*Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> I know that my Redeemer lives;<br>What comfort this sweet sentence gives!<br>He lives, he lives, who once was dead;<br>He lives, my ever-living Head! | <b>5</b> He lives to silence all my fears;<br>He lives to wipe away my tears.<br>He lives to calm my troubled heart;<br>He lives all blessings to impart.     |
| <b>2</b> He lives triumphant from the grave;<br>He lives eternally to save.<br>He lives all-glorious in the sky;<br>He lives exalted there on high. “          | <b>8</b> He lives, all glory to his name!<br>He lives, my Jesus, still the same.<br>Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:<br>I know that my Redeemer lives!” |

BE SEATED

## SERMON

Luke 24:1-8

### Repent: Turn to Jesus for Resurrection and Life

## **SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM REMEMBRANCE OUR BAPTISMAL CONNECTION TO CHRIST**

**M** On this holiest of days the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says: “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

STAND

**M** In Holy Baptism God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**C** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

**M** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**C** **Yes, 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**M** Do believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C** **Yes, 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.**

**M** Will you continue steadfast in this baptismal faith and, as a member of the Church, be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

**C** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

**C** **Amen.**

BE SEATED

# CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE

159 – Morning Breaks upon the Tomb



1 Morn - ing breaks up - on the tomb; Je - sus  
2 You who are of death a - fraid, Tri - umph  
3 Chris - tian, dry your flow - ing tears; Chase your



scat - ters all its gloom. Day of tri - umph through  
in the scat - tered shade. Drive your anx - ious cares  
un - be - liev - ing fears. Look on his de - sert -

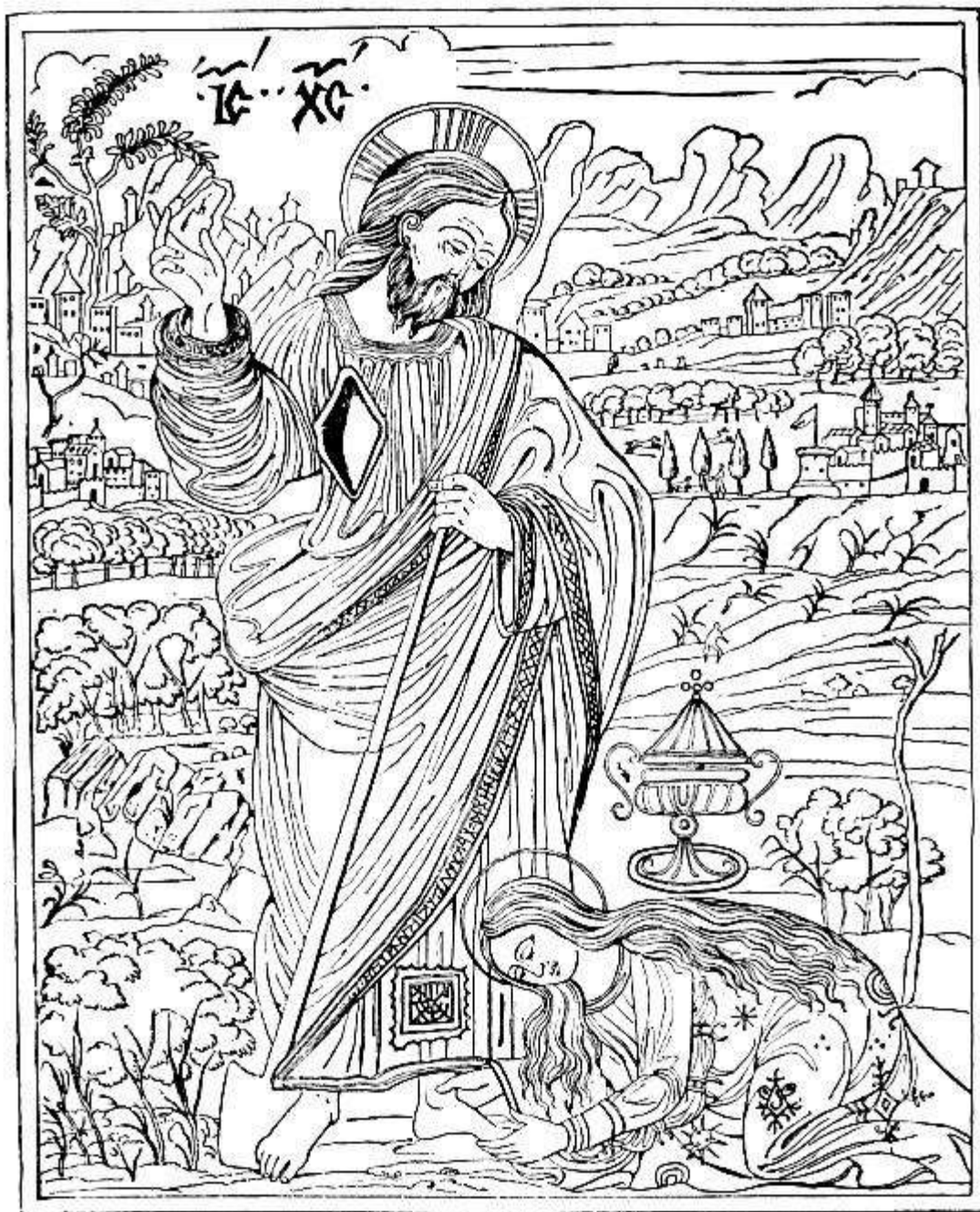


the skies, See the glo - rious Sav - ior rise.  
a - way; See the place where Je - sus lay.  
ed grave; Doubt no more his pow'r to save.

Text: William B. Collyer, 1782–1854, abr.  
Tune: INNOCENTS (77 77) French melody, 13th century.







[Easter Sunrise – 16]