

# Easter Festival

*Calvary Lutheran Church  
In the Heart of Lake Highlands – Dallas, TX*

By the second century, the feast of Easter had developed as an annual commemoration. The festival day was soon preceded by a time of fasting in preparation for the celebration, followed by a fifty-day season of rejoicing concluded by Pentecost.

The date for Easter differs from year to year because it is established by the phases of the moon (as was the Jewish festival of Passover.) The Festival of the Resurrection is celebrated annually on the first Sunday after the first full moon (14th of Nisan in the Jewish calendar) after the vernal equinox. (For a listing of Calendar Dates for the Church Year, see *Christian Worship* p.162.)

Preparations for the celebration of the festival itself began already on Saturday night with the Easter Vigil. One early Christian writing says: “Watch all night in prayers, supplications, the reading of the prophets, of the Gospel and of psalms in fear and trembling and continual supplication until three in the morning.” It was during the Easter Vigil that those persons who had completed a period of study for membership in the church were baptized.

Among the Sundays of the year, Easter Sunday has the place of prominence. On this day, the church celebrates the resurrection of Christ from death and the restoration of life to those dead in trespasses and sins. All who have been buried with Christ through baptism are united with him in his resurrection and walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4,5).\* Adapted from *Christian Worship: Manual*, pp.370-371.)

*So let us keep the festival to which the Lord invites us;  
Christ is himself the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.  
Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts;  
The night of sin is ended. Hallelujah! (Christian Worship Hymn #439/440:6)*

*God bless your worship.*



## Order of Service for

# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: FESTIVAL

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (438)

*Please stand for the final verse*



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## RESURRECTION DIALOGUE

This is the day the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.  
The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.  
**Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song.**

I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's right hand is majestic in power.  
The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of his majesty he threw down those who opposed him.  
**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

The Lord will not abandon me to the grave. He has made known to me the path of life.  
**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?  
**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.  
**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.  
**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

# SONG OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast (938)

## Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



- 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
- 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
- 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
- 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
- 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *v.4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*

## Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you made this holy day shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your Holy Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

*The Lord has taken away our disgrace, torn up the shroud of death, and promised us an eternal feast.*

ISAIAH 25:6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine—  
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

<sup>7</sup>On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.  
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces;  
he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth.  
The Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>In that day they will say,  
"Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us.  
This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

## RESPONSE

Crown Him with Many Crowns (511)

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King thro' all eternity.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

*Death has been swallowed up in victory.*

<sup>1</sup> CORINTHIANS 15:51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

<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! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE STAND

*The Gospel lesson is read by the presiding minister in the center aisle on the level of the congregation as a picture of Jesus' presence amid his disciples when he appeared to them in the upper room on the evening of the first Easter.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Crown Him with Many Crowns (511)

**Crown him the Lord of love – behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his wond’ring eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Christ Is Risen!**  
CHRIST  
IS RISEN  
INDEED *Alleluia*

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12

*The account of Christ's Easter victory.*

<sup>1</sup>LUKE 24:1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## GOSPEL RESPONSE

Crown Him with Many Crowns (511)

**Crown him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.  
Crown him with many crowns as thrones before him fall;  
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns for he is King of all.**

PLEASE BE SEATED



HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness (443)



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness— see what to -  
 2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed when Christ lay  
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens— what peace it  
 4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my  
 5 He brings me to the por - tal that leads to



day is done! Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes  
 in the tomb; but lo, he now is rout - ed, his  
 does im - part! Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the  
 Sav - ior dear. My Lord will leave me nev - er; with  
 bliss un - told, where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is



forth the glo - rious sun. My Sav - ior there was  
 boast is turned to gloom. For Christ a - gain is  
 joy with - in my heart. No gloom shall ev - er  
 him I need not fear. He rends death's i - ron  
 found in script of gold: "Who there my cross has



laid where our bed must be made when to the  
 free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry he who is  
 shake, no foe shall ev - er take the hope which  
 chain; he breaks through sin and pain. He shat - ters  
 shared finds here a crown pre - pared; who there with



realms of light our spir - it wings its flight.  
 strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
 God's own Son in love for me has won.  
 hell's dark thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
 me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

# Victory!

STAND

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and MUSICAL OFFERING

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

*Offerings can be given in any of four ways:*

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *On your phone with the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the code to the left...*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*YOU MAY REMAIN SEATED FOR PRAYER*

O God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, we thank and praise you for the mercy you have shown us through his glorious resurrection. Grant that on this day believers throughout the world may see the fullness of your grace and peace. Give us a living hope to believe that the grave has no power over us and that we have been made partakers of eternal life. **Strengthen all your people that we may be faithful to death and may receive the crown of life.**

Almighty God, as your Son on this day rose from the dead for us, victorious over sin and the grave, grant that sin may no longer live in our hearts. By the power of his resurrection set our minds on things above, not on earthly things.

**Grant that in Christ's resurrection we may conquer sin and find strength to resist the devil's temptations.**

Rule over the nations of the earth, O Lord, that they may join the hosts of heaven in songs of Christ's victorious triumph. Bless and preserve the President and Congress of the United States of America and all those who govern and guide us in this great city so that freedom, justice, righteousness, and peace may prevail. Watch over the members of our armed forces as they protect our nation from harm and evil. Grant contentment to service personnel and their families as they spend these holy days apart from one other.

**Comfort those who mourn the loss of those they love and sustain the innocent who are caught in the carnage and cruelty of war.**

In every adversity and trial preserve us, O Lord. Heal the sick, giving them the hope of a glorious body in the resurrection of the dead. With the promises of this great day remove the fear of death from the hearts of the dying and the sadness of death from hearts that feel the loss of family and friends. Defend the weak and vulnerable, especially the unborn, the aged, those who are hungry, homeless, unemployed, and those who are struggling under the load of troubles and trials.

**Bestow your gracious favor on our homes and families and bless us with Easter's joy and consolation.**

We give thanks for all those who have died and now live with Christ in the triumph of Easter, especially our own faithful departed loved ones.

**Unite us with them in the hope of the resurrection of the dead.**

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Hear us, O Father, for the sake of him who is the firstborn of the dead and is now alive forevermore, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

STAND

### PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is good and right so to do.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of his glo - ry.

## 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.

BE SEATED

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



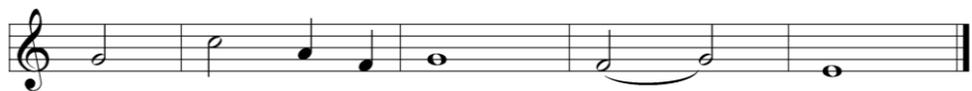
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (440)



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands for our of -  
2 No son of man could con - quer death, such ru - in  
3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, his peo - ple  
4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and



fens - es giv - en; but now at God's right hand he  
sin had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on  
to de - liv - er; de - stroy - ing sin, he took the  
death con - tend - ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with



stands and brings us life from heav - en.  
earth, and there - fore death had brought us  
crown from death's pale brow for - ev - er.  
life, the reign of death was end - ed.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing to  
in - to bond - age from of old and ev - er  
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns; an emp - ty  
Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly saith that death is



God right thank - ful - ly loud songs of  
grew more strong and bold and held us  
form a - lone re - mains; its sting is  
swal - lowed up by death; dis - graced, it



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
lies de - feat - ed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,  
whom God so freely gave us;  
he died on the accursed tree—  
so strong his love—to save us.  
See, his blood now marks our door;  
faith points to it; death passes o’er,  
and Satan cannot harm us.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

6 So let us keep the festival  
to which the Lord invites us;  
Christ is himself the joy of all,  
the sun that warms and lights us.  
Now his grace to us imparts  
eternal sunshine to our hearts;  
the night of sin is ended.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

7 Then let us feast this Easter Day  
on Christ, the bread of heaven;  
the Word of grace has purged away  
the old and evil leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed;  
he is our meat and drink indeed;  
faith lives upon no other!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

## PRAYER

STAND

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**And his mercy endures forever.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. We pray that through this precious gift you would feed our faith, nourish our hope, and strengthen our love that we may live as your people now and as your guests forever at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns (511)

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save,  
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.**

*After worship, please feel free to stay and great your neighbors.*

