

Easter Morning, 10:00am
What Would Life Be Like Without Easter



Easter Sunday! Even more than Christmas, today represents the heart of Christianity.

It's easy to lose sight of Christmas as a celebration of the incarnation because of all the hoopla that surrounds it.

There are distractions at Easter also, Easter bunnies, return of spring, and new Easter outfits. But far fewer than at Christmas.

Today marks the climax of what Christmas began, the victory of Jesus over our worst enemies, satan, sin, and death.

PreService Music

P: The light of Jesus has dawned!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: All choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us,

C: Rejoice at Christ's victory over death.

P: Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation,

C: Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.

P: Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Jesus!

C: Jesus has kept all God's promises!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

#478, 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, list'ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

3

Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph
And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that has no end!

?

4

All praise to God the Father,
All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory
Ascribe to God alone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: We cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let's give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to each other and to God.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have

not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.

P: Rejoice and be glad! God became one of us, Jesus, who died to pay for your sins. Jesus not only paid the penalty, on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed to all the world that He accepted the payment. Indeed, your sins are forgiven! In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray.

C: Heavenly Father, Lord of Life, Creator of all things, by Your mighty power You raised Your Son, our Savior, to life from death. We cannot fully understand this, but pray that You keep us ever mindful of this Good News so that we may live each day in triumphant gladness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

Praise Song

Isaiah 25:6–9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God, we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the Lord, we have waited for Him, let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 15:19–26 [Sermon Text]

If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Praise Song

The Sermon *What Would Life Be Like Without Easter?*

P: We profess our faith,

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. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: ...let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of our Lord

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: 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.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Middle Cross???

God's Benediction

P: Christ is risen,

C: He is risen indeed, alleluia!

#457, Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1

Jesus Christ is ris'n 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 heav'nly 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 have 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 His love; Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!