

Certain hope FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

THEME FOR WORSHIP

This morning we worship Christ, our Savior, who through his cross and empty tomb has conquered sin and death for you. Through this victory you have a sure and certain hope. May your faith be renewed and strengthened by the news that Jesus lives.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, you made the dawn of this Holy Easter Day shine with the glory of our Savior's resurrection. Grant that we, who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit, may worship you in sincerity and truth! In Jesus' name. Amen.

✠ THE ORDER OF SERVICE ✠

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be glory and praise now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 25:6-9

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.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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."

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 16:1-8

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

M: In a world that has difficulty believing in one true God, but is so ready to believe that our universe happened by some unknown accident, what do you believe?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

M: In a society that so quickly rejects what God did through His Son, what do you believe?

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.

M: While many put their trust in things or people that they make into their gods, what do you believe that Jesus did that proves He is true God, as He said, and has conquered death?

C: 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: Those who refuse to trust in the Lord are without hope. What do you believe that gives you hope?

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.

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

BLESSING

M: Now may the glorious Father, who by his power raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, give you the Spirit of wisdom to know the hope to which he has called you. And may he preserve you in body, soul, and faith until our own resurrection on the day of Christ Jesus.

C: AMEN!

M: CHRIST IS RISEN!

C: HE IS RISEN INDEED! Alleluia