

Breaking News – He is Risen! - Skit

Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

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 heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

Opening Response:

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

C He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

P Rejoice then, even in your distress.

C We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

P God has claimed us as his own.

C God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Reflection: King of Kings

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

Confession and Absolution

C Risen and rising Lord, we confess that too often we live as though we had not been given new life in you. We muddle after our own schemes. We follow after wayward leaders and cherish broken dreams. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we keep the good news of your resurrection to ourselves, hoard the blessings that you give and live as though we were still on the path of despair. Give us your Spirit, the spirit of new life, the spirit of joyful service, the spirit of loving care for all others around us. Make us truly Easter people in this broken world. Fill us with the Spirit so that we might overflow with the serving that proclaims your very presence with us.

P I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all.

Epistle Reading, 1 Corinthians 15:12-26

P Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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 firstfruits, 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.

Gospel Reading, John 20:1-18

P Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

Children’s Message:

(Show a cocoon—you can find a picture of one at [Monarch_Butterfly_Cocoon_6708.jpg](#) on Google. You might bring a picture of a butterfly as well.) Do you know what this is? *(Allow responses.)* That’s right. It is a but-

terfly cocoon. Do you know what happens when a caterpillar makes one of these? *(Allow responses.)* Right. After a while the caterpillar comes out of the cocoon as a beautiful butterfly. How can that happen? God made the butterfly to be a kind of reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection. The caterpillar goes into a cocoon, like Jesus went into the tomb after he had died on the cross on Good Friday. And after a while the cocoon opens and a butterfly comes out. After three days, the tomb was opened by God and Jesus came out and showed himself to his disciples and many others. The disciples were amazed when he came to life. Then Jesus sent them out to tell others about what God had done. We have the promise that we too will rise to new life because of Jesus. That is the good news we have to share. So every time you see a cocoon, you can think of Jesus and his rising from the dead for you and all people.

Let's Pray: Dear Lord we thank you for giving us Jesus who arose from the dead into a new life just like the butterflies who come to life after leaving the cocoon. Bless us as we celebrate you today on Easter. Amen

Message:

Crossroads. They are there for all of us. We may move along from day to day easily, walking in the sunshine, enjoying the view, feeling at peace. And then it comes. A crossroad. A choice point. There we stand, frozen to the spot. Which way now? Right? Left? Straight? What waits down each of those choices? Which way does our heart call us to go? Which makes sense? Which is God's way?

The answers aren't easy. A crossroad can bring daunting spiritual pain. And it can bring us to our knees. It can even bring us to destruction. And it can bring us to new life. Today we have an expert on crossroads, she faced many in her life. But the most important crossroad was the one where she personally met the risen Christ.

This Easter morning we welcome the voice of Mary Magdalene, follower of Jesus, and famous in her own right.

I was, I guess, an early follower of Jesus. I came from a hard life. My husband had died early in our marriage. He left me what some people call "well off" but my life as a widow was hard. Many people were jealous of me. Even my so-called friends turned against me. They spread stories that I was living an immoral life. And the stories not only ruined my reputation but made me an outcast.

I know, you might wonder how and why I followed Jesus with that reputation. I heard him teach and saw his miracles. I thought he might be the answer to my questions about life and help heal my pain, the way he did for those with physical complaints.

Jesus gave me hope. But it was a kind of wishful hope. In some ways he disappointed me. He didn't correct the evil stories that went around about me. And he didn't seem to do anything about the evil that surrounded us. The Romans still oppressed us. The religious leaders still cheated and troubled us.

I was there, with the others when he was crucified. I saw him put to death and at that point my life really did come apart. I had followed him, trusted him and there he was at the mercy of the hated Romans, mocked by the religious leaders. I had so hoped that it would be the other way, that he would bring peace to our land and peace to my soul.

I did find that peace, but it was when I had given up on him. I was there in the garden looking for his body so I could help with his burial, and maybe remember him. I was crushed. You can't know how broken my spirit

was at that time. I was desperate.

I just felt I needed to be here to share the miracle on this Easter morning. I did not find him. He found me. He came to me, even when I was so broken that I could not recognize him. He came to me, spoke my name, healed my spirit and changed my life.

All he had to do was speak my name you see. He knew what I needed. He knew where I was. He came and by his resurrection made everything new for me—and he will do it for you too. Everything new!

At that point I knew I could stop searching for him, for meaning, for all the things I needed to fulfill my life. Then I knew that my life was caught up in him. He made me whole and gave me a challenge.

I knew that my purpose in life now was to tell what he had done and what he had done for me. Don't you see? Easter, the resurrection is not just a miraculous event, it is a life-changing crossroad for all of us. In the Risen Christ we are found at all of the stopping places of life, all of the dead ends, and called to new life by the one who purchased and gifted new life for us.

Pastor: We know that the Risen Christ sent us to teach the new life he has given us. He said: "Go ... and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

That is all of our Easter challenge and promise. He sends even you and me to be his witnesses and he promises to be with us, to keep on being with us, to keep on coming after us, picking us up and sending us again—to the end of the age. Amen

Prayers:

Let us bring our prayers and petitions to God who hears and answers the pleas of our hearts. On this special celebration day, Lord, we pray your living presence with the leaders of all nations and peoples of the world. Give government leaders a vision of how your reign can help and heal all peoples especially in these days of uncertainty. We ask your presence with those who suffer violence and persecution, especially those who suffer for your name. Give new life to the oppressed; hold the persecuted in your protective hand; send justice to the victims of injustice; and encompass all who cry to you for help with your saving presence. Make us agents of healing in this hurting world. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

We pray for this congregation and your church. Send pastors and leaders who are filled to overflowing with the good news of your death and resurrection. Make this gathering of your people a place of healing and restoration for all who are broken in spirit. Inspire your followers to share the Gospel in their words and in their actions. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

Risen Savior, fill and send us with the good news of your resurrection. Give us an urgency in telling the news of the open tomb. Make us Easter people in the joy we spread with our lives, the hope we share in times of sorrow, the vision of life we bring in the face of this world's darkness. Lead us to take your rising power to all those around us who cry out for help. Make us able to choose the path of life. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

We pray for the sick, the suffering, the grieving, the lonely. We ask that you be with us as we continue to long to be together as we continue to be in separation. We ask that you be with all of those within our congregations and those that have found our parish these days while streaming. We pray that you will keep us well and safe from all that is surrounding us and we especially remember those we name now silently in our hearts. We commit all of these to your loving care. Heal, help and comfort them according to your will. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

These and all other petitions and requests we bring before you in the name of Jesus and we pray together now the prayer that Jesus, the risen lord, taught us:

Lord's Prayer:

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 daily our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed 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

Benediction:

May almighty God bless you on this Easter Day, and may he protect you against all sin. Through the resurrection of his Son, God granted us healing. May he fulfill his promises and bless you with eternal life. You have mourned for Christ's sufferings; now you celebrate the joy of his resurrection. May you come with joy to the feast which lasts forever. May almighty God, the Father, the +Son, and Holy Spirit. Bless you now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

I know that my Redeemer lives	He lives, all glory to His name!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!	He lives, my Jesus, still the same
He lives, He lives, who once was dead	Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives,
He lives, my ever-living Head	"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Thank you to the following for supporting the purchase of Palms and Flowers for spring (when we return)

Dan and Allison Krogstad family

Rensvold Family

Brauckmuller family in Memory of Walter and Evelyn Brauckmuller

Kalash family in Memory of Grandparents of Shannon and Curtis Kalash

Donald Pingree in Memory of Kathy Pingree

Volden Family in Memory of Margaret Durr

Dosland Family in Memory of Dorothy and LeRoy Dosland and Naomi and Ted Pacht



KIDS EASTER WORD SEARCH

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LORD
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 JESUS
 EASTER
 CROSS

RESURRECTION
 ALMIGHTY
 MARY
 FASTING
 GOOD FRIDAY
 SUNDAY
 LENT
 LAST SUPPER
 PASSOVER
 RISEN
 REMEMBER
 KING

