

The Resurrection of our Lord/ Easter Day

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Celebrate: (Introduction) “‘This is the day the Lord has made!’ Christ is risen, and through him a new creation is made new! Indeed, ‘God shows no partiality’” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.”

He is Risen; He is Risen Indeed

Opening Hymn: “Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbbsMbiqFKU>

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

The LORD is my strength and my defense^[a];
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:

“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

The Hymn of Praise: “Thine is the Glory”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLmI>

The prayer of the Day:

“O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

The Lessons:

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

The Gospel: “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”

John 20:1-18

“Alleluia!”

The Hymn of the Day: “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56a4w7XxvfY>

The Message: Video version: <https://youtu.be/HyBzpx8JDWI>

Today the calendar indicates it is Easter Sunday, a time to celebrate the empty tomb and the resurrection. But, unlike other years, this year we find this most holy of days in Christianity to be very different. We just may not be in the mood to have any kind of celebration. We are living in an isolated world. We are not able to physically come together to celebrate. The sanctuary of our meeting together is shuttered; no Easter lilies adorning the altar; no live music and singing together; no draping of the cross with a white cloth of the resurrection; no egg hunts for the children; and no greeting of each other with “He is risen”- “He is risen indeed!” Although the earth is showing new life with its beautiful array of springtime blossoms, it all seems very different since the reality is that our physical isolation inhibits us from our normal celebrations. Easter just seems like it has died.

But Easter, the “Day of the Resurrection” of Jesus, has not died. Its celebration, though changed, can still be and yes, still is a reality for us. Not even a pandemic can stop the message of the resurrection from being celebrated. We still can still hear the poignant words of the event two thousand years ago. We still can relive the gospels’ accounts of the empty tomb. It is this message which we can celebrate no matter the circumstances of life.

As we experience life during this crisis, we can now identify with the women who were making their way to the tomb. They too were experiencing a deep crisis in their lives Their lives had been drastically changed along with that of the disciples. and horribly crucified Jesus. Would they be next? Would they be forced into hiding? But they needed some closure since they were not able to be involved in the hastened entombment of their friend. That led the women to leave the security of their homes to go to the tomb before dawn on the first day of the week after the crucifixion. We feel there sadness when they saw the stone rolled away and the tomb being empty. Their first thought was the body was stolen. This only heightened their grief and anger.

Amazingly that would all change. In John's moving account, we feel the emotion and grief of that morning. John relates that Mary Magdalene held back and remained at the empty tomb. Her grief filled her eyes with tears upon thinking someone had stolen the body of her close friend, Jesus. It was then that risen Jesus appeared to her. John records this moment in time. "At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!'"(which means 'Teacher')."

Within that instant everything began to change. Of course the disciples still were not fully aware of this changing event. Knowing this Jesus instructed Mary to begin the process of change among them. "Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her."

It was only later that the disciples would come to the full realization of what happened. Even when the revelation came to them they were fearful of what would happen to them. But they now had the promise and hope of the resurrected Christ. There was light in their darkest

hour and hope for a new perspective for living beyond fear and anxiety. It was the dawn of a new life – a life in which God's love and forgiveness is supreme and eternal. This is the good news of the resurrection which never dies and cannot be denied even though we may have to celebrate it in the spirit of our fellowship in Christ and not physically together. Easter, the day of the Resurrection is alive and well for it lives on and is celebrated within each of us. Therefore even during this time of crisis and isolation we can joyous say together, "He is Risen! He is risen indeed!"

The Anthem: "The Holy City" Soloist, Agne Giedraityte
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9jEnKinBOY>

The Offering*

"We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee."

The Prayer:

Almighty and loving God, we lift our thoughts and voices in songs and words of praise in celebration for the Good News of the empty tomb to you amidst these troubled times. It is the good news of the resurrection of Jesus which gives light and hope to what may seem to be a dark time in our lives. Indeed you have shown us your great love which comforts us with the promise of a new life beyond all of our times of crisis and despair. We continue to pray for all those who are placing themselves in harm's way in order to bring healing to those in need. Likewise we pray for all those who are laboring in difficult circumstances so that we may continue to make thee needed supplies in order that we may live. Give us the strength and endurance to continue to make the sacrifices we must so that others may not suffer pain and even death. May we all find the joy of this day by instilling in us the promise of new life through the joyous message of the empty tomb.

Reach out and touch us with your blessing, We especially seek healing and comfort for, Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Billy Jean Eddy & family, the Elshafei family, Betty Fultz, Darrell Garrison, the John Family, John Kahl, Ray Lambert, Donna Mayhew, Bev and Jim Mertz, Nic Nelson, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Terre Rones, Paul Sagal, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Tommy Shimer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Randy Stephens, Yongyin Sun, Esther and

Buck Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and all those who are suffering fear anxiety, pain, and sorrow as a result of this pandemic. Be especially near to Al Honey and surround him with your special healing and comforting presence.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

(The Lord's Prayer) by Jackie Evancho

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PyInyZn_0M

.The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you;

The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters

Live on knowing God's love,

The joy of living this life of love,

And the peace which only come through the power of His presence within you.

So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1brSOs0IMc>

*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Road

Ellicott City, MD 21042