



HIS FINAL STEPS

**Led to His
First Steps
Outside
His Tomb**

April 9, 2023



Easter Sunday

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We pray that Jesus' words of forgiveness will be yours as you worship with us today! If you have any questions or would like more information about our Church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out the guest register at the Church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Indents and boldened letters indicate congregational responses.

Today's readings and Theme – Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The Church gathers at dawn and remembers the early hours of the first Easter Sunday. After three days in the tomb, Christ returned to dry our tears and remove our fears. Jesus wants no soul left in mourning over death. He laid down his life, and he took it up again. He removed the sting of death (Second Lesson) by becoming salvation for us (First Lesson), so that we can call God our Father (Gospel).

MORNING PRAYER

O God, you made the dawn of this most 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 life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: MORNING PRAISE (MATINS) – CW, p.45

Alleluia! He is Risen!

Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed!

****PLEASE STAND****



MORNING HYMN:

#153

ALLELUIA! JESUS LIVES



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus lives! He is now the
2 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice; Praise him, ran - somed
3 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and
4 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, Life is yours e -



liv - ing one; From the gloom - y house of death
ones of earth. Praise him in a no - bler song,
fre - quent sigh? He who died our broth - er here
ter - nal - ly; Joined to him, your liv - ing head,



Forth the con - quer - or has gone, Bright fore - run - ner
Cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth. Praise the Vic - tor -
Lives our broth - er still on high, Lives for - ev - er
Where he is, you too shall be; You with him at



to the skies Of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
King, whose sway Sin and death and hell o - bey.
to be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
his right hand Vic - tor o - ver death shall stand.

Text: Karl B. Garve, 1763–1841, abr.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
Tune: FRED TIL BOD (77 77 77) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



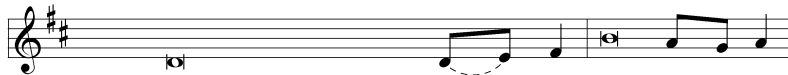
M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



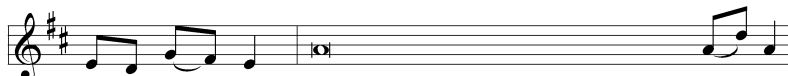
M: (Easter) The Lord is _____ ris - en: let us wor - ship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Venite



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



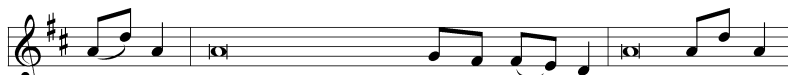
great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Let us pray.

O God, you made the dawn of this most 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 life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 12: 1 - 6

God was right to be angry with us. We deserved to be abandoned. We rightly cried and feared what our sins had done. Such righteous anger called for payment—for atonement. But here is the great reversal of Easter: God's anger is turned away, and the one who should be our judge, has become our comforter.

In that day you will say: I will give thanks to you, Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me. Surely God is my salvation. I will trust him and will not be afraid, because Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation. Therefore, with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: Give thanks to the Lord! Proclaim his name. Declare among the peoples what he has done. Proclaim that his name is exalted! Sing to the Lord, for he has done amazing things! Let this be known in all the earth! Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 30

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I



lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone



Refrain

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;*
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,*
 but his favor lasts a lifetime;
 weeping may remain for a night,*
 but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I



lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone



To you, O LORD, I called;*
 to the Lord I cried for mercy.
 Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;*
 O LORD, be my help.

You turned my wailing into dancing,*
 that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

**and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51 – 57

In the realm of mortal existence, dead is dead. It is death's finality—its irreversibility—that makes man fear it. At the grave, all the hopes and dreams of mortal man are dashed, and survivors are left with nothing but mourning and tears. But look at this...behold! Paul reveals a mystery: the dead will be raised!

Look, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. But once this perishable body has put on imperishability, and this mortal body has put on immortality, then what is written will be fulfilled: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

VERSE OF THE DAY:

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Alleluia. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

HYMN OF THE DAY:

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

#152

vs 1-4

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to
 5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save. He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove. He lives, my hun - gry
 guide me with his eye. He lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears. He lives to calm my

once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.
 Tune: DUKE STREET (LM) attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793.

GOSPEL

JOHN 20: 11 – 18

After Good Friday, Jesus' followers were quick to believe all he had said about his crucifixion, but slow to believe any of his promises of the resurrection. The sight of the empty tomb made Mary Magdalene so despondent that she left before hearing the angels' message. Peter and John raced to the tomb but left with only the stirrings of faith. Mary stayed behind at the tomb, alone with her tears and fears. What love we see in our Savior's appearance to Mary!

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she left and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she told them, "and we don't know where they put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. Bending over, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was following him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there. The cloth that had been on Jesus' head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, also entered. He saw and believed. (They still did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him." After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and replied in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means, "Teacher"). Jesus told her, "Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell 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!" She also told them the things he said to her.

*****Please Be Seated*****

SERMON:

His First Steps Led Outside His Tomb

SERMON TEXT

JOHN 20: 11 – 18

*****Please Stand*****

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE:

#152

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

vs 5-8

5) He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

6) He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend:
He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing:
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King

7) He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8) He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

*****Please Be Seated*****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

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 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.

Please Be Seated

HYMN:

#160

THE JOYFUL EASTERTIDE

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor - row.
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er.
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three - day
 pris - on, Our faith had been in vain: But
 now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en; But now is Christ a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934.
 Tune: VRUECHTEN (67 67 with Refrain) *Davids Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1684.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

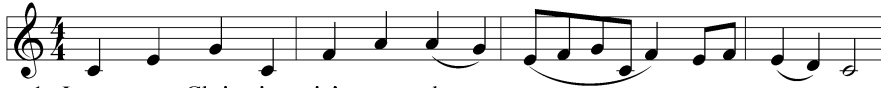


C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN:

#157

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY



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



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



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



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

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century, st. 1-3; Charles Wesley, 1707-88, st. 4; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, st. 1-3, alt.
Tune: EASTER HYMN (77 77 with Alleluias) *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, alt.

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