

Easter Sunday

This service utilizes the same format but a few different responses. If you are able, go outside to greet the dawn on this Resurrection Day, perhaps just being still and watching the light grow, or engaging in the following worship liturgy to start the day.

Many churches, likely including your own, will be streaming Easter services this day. Join with others in worshipping together online.

God Calls You to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

I light this candle to remember that Jesus is with me.

Repeat the following a few times with growing excitement:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Gathering Song

Choose a favorite song that draws you into worship.

- *Holy, Holy, Holy* LUYH 538 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship* LUYH 526 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)
- *Jesus Loves Me* LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

Risen Christ,
the disciples were filled with fear and uncertainty
but you revealed yourself as the conqueror of death.
On this Easter day as we gather
some grieving, some fearful, some unsure of the future,
reveal yourself and fill us with hope.
Amen.

-Rev. Joyce Borger

God Speaks and You Respond

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Reflecting on God's Word

- The angel's first words were "Do not be afraid." How are these words especially timely on Easter this year? Allow sacred space to name your fears aloud or write them in a journal or draw. While honoring the human fears that this pandemic has brought, recall that the promise of God is to be with us. Learn the short song, "Don't Be Afraid" LUYH 429.
- Read Romans 6:4, then declare the following words aloud.

For me Jesus Christ came into the world:

For me he lived and showed God's love;

**For me he suffered the darkness of Calvary
and cried at the last, "It is finished";**

For me he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life;

For me he ascended to reign at God's right hand.

All this, he did for me, before I knew anything of it.

And so the Word of Scripture is fulfilled:

"We love because God loved us first."

-Adapted from *At Your Baptism*, Carrie Steenwyk, John Witvliet, © 2011,
Eerdmans Publishing, adapted from Baptismal Liturgy of the French Reformed
Church

- Use chalk to draw on your sidewalk--a message of hope, or signs of life, or a large colorful cross using the easy method found [here](#).. You could write "For _____ Jesus rose again!" Fill in a few names and leave chalk for neighbors to write their names.

Sung or Spoken Response

Sing or play these and other resurrection songs throughout the day.

- *In Christ Alone* -LUYH 770 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)
- *Oh, to See the Dawn/Power of the Cross* -LUYH 177 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* -LUYH 182 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Low in the Grave He Lay* -LUYH 186 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer focusing on hope and gratitude, or use the following one.

Gracious God, you loved the world so much that you sent your only son to save the world through him. I worship you and thank you for the gift of life now and the promise of new and everlasting life through your mercy.

Living Christ, by your death and resurrection you have restored me to life and replaced my fear with hope. I love you and follow you into the world as your disciple, eager to serve and love as you taught me.

Enlivening Spirit, you comfort and strengthen me each day. Guide me in my life, in what I do and say, in what I think and imagine, in how I interact with others and as I anticipate going back into the world at work, school, play, and everyday interactions. May I outwardly live as one of your “resurrection people” in this world. Through Christ my Lord who lives in me, AMEN.

-Rev. Joy Engelsman

Gospel Declaration

This is the good news: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

God Sends

While you may not be leaving your home during this week, you are still called to be Christ’s presence in your relationships, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing your worship of God in all you do and say. Read this verse of praise aloud.

Closing Verse

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!**

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Hear these words of blessing spoken to you from God. As you are comfortable, use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week.

**I, your God will go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.**

**Do not be afraid.
Go forth in peace.**

Living out our Resurrection Life

In the coming weeks as you may still be at home for work and school, seek out ways to grow in faith, hope and love.

- Continue to reach out to friends and neighbors in creative and loving ways. Send snail mail cards, use social media,
- Replace some of your media time with songs and messages of hope, including many above. Share with friends on social media.
- Consider what brings you comfort in life and in death along with the people in [this video](#). Learn these words of promise and comfort from the Heidelberg Catechism by memory. Memorize one new line each day and in 5 days you will have the whole thing memorized. (We've separated the lines out for you).

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.