

Daily Worship for Holy Week and Easter

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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 us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Repeat the following a few times with growing excitement till all loudly proclaim:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

- *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* [lyric video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- *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's presence.

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 to Us and We 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 for all to name fears, being alert to the fears of children and young adults. Or in lieu of speaking, allow time to 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 to each other. If possible, have each person read one line and all read the final two lines.

For you Jesus Christ came into the world:

For you he lived and showed God's love;

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

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

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

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

And so the Word of Scripture is fulfilled:

"We love because God loved us first."

*-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](#)
- Options especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with 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. We 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 us to life and replaced our fear with hope. We love you and follow you into the world as your disciples, eager to serve and love as you taught us.

Enlivening Spirit, you comfort and strengthen us each day. Guide us in our lives, in what we do and say, in what we think and imagine, in how we interact at home, online, and as we again go out into the world at work, school, play, and everyday interactions. May we outwardly live as “resurrection people” in this world. Through Christ our Lord who lives in us, AMEN.

-Rev. Joy Engelsman

Gospel Declaration

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

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week, we are still called to be Christ’s presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

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

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. 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 and truly speak it over each other.

May God 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 in peace.

Living out our Resurrection Life

In the coming weeks as we 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.