

“He is Risen to Overcome Death”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Luke 24:5-7, Psalm 8:1, 5-6, 9**

He is risen, Alle- | luia!*
 Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!
 Remember how He spoke to you? Alle- | luia!*
 “The Son of Man must be crucified, and the third day rise again.”
 Alleluia! Alle- | luia!
 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in | all the earth,*
 who have set Your glory above the | heavens!
 For You have made Him a little lower than the | angels,*
 and You have crowned Him with glory and | honor.
 You have made Him to have dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
 you have put all things un- | der His feet.
 O | Lord, our Lord,*

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Acts 2:24**
 “God raised [Jesus] up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands**
 TLH 195, LSB 458
 Martin Luther



1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
 For our offenses given;
 But now at God's right hand He stands
 And brings us life from heaven;
 Therefore let us joyful be
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of hallelujah!
 Hallelujah!

3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
 Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree-
 So strong His love!-to save us.
 See, His blood doth mark our door;
 Faith points to it, Death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Hallelujah!

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
 I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
 And 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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

3 PRAY THE 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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Overcome Death

Christ is risen! Easter Sunday marks the transition from the richest week in the church year to the “week of weeks,” i.e., seven Sundays of Easter. The richness of the feast is indicated by (among other joys) a full set of propers (Introit, Collect, etc.) for Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This week’s daily lessons present the good news that the Son of God (Ps 2) was exalted in His death (Is 52) and is now risen (Mk 16, Mt 28), to shower us with a living hope (I Pet 1, Ps 139) and the Easter feast (I Cor 5). In the words of one liturgical text from the East, “Come, all ye faithful, let us venerate Christ’s holy resurrection.” He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8 He is Risen!

Christ is risen! So the women look in vain for Jesus’ dead body. He is risen indeed! And the first day of the week will never be quite the same. He is risen indeed! So the women need not fret about the stone, for the rejected Cornerstone has become the chief Cornerstone. Christ is risen! And the women can abandon their mourning and rejoice in the dawn of the New Creation. He is risen indeed! And the women will start the worldwide spread of the good news of the most pivotal even in salvation history. Let all the world in every corner sing, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” for death could not hold the Lord of Life. *Grant, O Lord, that we who celebrate the solemnities of Thy resurrection may rise again from the death of the soul. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2 “Thou art My Son”

Luther’s Easter hymn, “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” echoes the theology of Psalm 2, wherein God the Father exalts His Son above the sons of this earth. “No son of man could conquer death, Such ruin sin had wrought us” (LSB 458.2). We are the sons of Adam, born in sin and inclined to rebel against God (Ps. 2:1-3). But “Christ Jesus, God’s own Son, came down, His people to deliver” (LSB 458.3). The Father’s only-begotten Son has conquered death by His own death and risen from the dead to receive the nations—yes, even you and me—as His inheritance, world without end (Ps 2:7-9). *Mighty Victor, reign forever, Wear the crown so dearly won; Never shall Thy people, never, Cease to sing what Thou hast done. (TLH 209.4) Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Christ Our Passover

Luther’s Easter hymn captures the two-part plan of the Passover feast: kill and lamb and eat the lamb. Christ is our Passover Lamb, who “died on the accursed tree—So strong His love—to save us. See His blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; death passes o’er” (LSB 458.5). The Lamb of God has made the great, once-for all sin of all men. Death is swallowed up by death and its sting is lost forever! But the feast and the gifts are ongoing: “Then let us feast this Easter Day / On Christ, the bread of heaven; The Word of grace has purged away / The old and evil leaven” (LSB 458.7). *Thou our Paschal Lamb indeed, Christ, today Thy people feed; Take our sins and guilt away / That we all may sing for aye: Hallelujah! (TLH 190.7) Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:13-15 Exalted in His Death

This reading begins Isaiah’s “Suffering Servant” passage (52:13-53:12). The words “high and lifted up” might sound like a description of Jesus’ resurrection, especially during the week of Easter, but here Isaiah describes Jesus’ exaltation in His death. In New Testament terms, “Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah . . . has conquered” (5:5). Jesus, the Suffering Servant, was exalted on the cross, fulfilling His role as the “Alpha Male” of Judah, who has conquered our enemies—sin, death, and the devil. The night of grief is over! The Lion advances victorious! The fight is over, the battle won. *Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death’s dread sting Thy servants free / That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia! (TLH 210.5). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-8 “Christ has risen, and the Lord has thundered from heaven. Alleluia!”

The “Christ has risen” text cited above is an ancient liturgical text for Easter Sunday. The words “thundered from heaven” reflect the unique aspects of St. Matthew’s Easter narrative, especially the great earthquake as the angel of the Lord descended from heaven (v. 2). Building on the epiphanies of Christ in the Old Testament, the Lord has indeed thundered from heaven and shaken the earth, but in a greater way than in days of old. This time Christ has destroyed the old order of sin and death and brought life and immortality to you—yes, even you—by the His resurrection. *O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to Thee let earth accord. Alleluia! Who art, while endless ages run / With Father and with Spirit One. Alleluia! (TLH 212.7). Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-12 Our Living Hope

On April 9, 1945, Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, after being imprisoned for his role in a plot to kill Hitler, was executed by the Third Reich. His last sermon, preached just two priors to his death, was on the first verse of this Scripture lesson, “Blessed be the God and Father,” etc. The words “living hope” were no doubt especially pertinent for the one who famously wrote, “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die,” but who also described death as the “greatest of feasts on the journey to freedom eternal.” And so it goes for all who are born of water and the Spirit, begotten to an eternal inheritance. *O Lord, after my flesh has rested in hope and slumbered for a season, wake me all the dead to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 “When I Awake, I am Still with Thee”

In the traditional Entrance Psalm for Easter Sunday (139:18, 5-6, 1-2), the Psalmist prays that, after lying down to rest in peace, he may rise again to know and serve the Lord. Christ prays that, after a three-day “sleep” in the grave, He may be raised again (literally “to stand again”) to proclaim the good news that He has loosed the pangs of death, for the Lord of Life cannot remain dead. And you, the believer, pray that after your own rest in the grave, the One who knows your daily pattern of sitting down and rising up shall raise you by His own mighty hand and seat you with Christ in the heavenly places. Lord, draw me unto Thee / And wake me from the dead / That I may rise forevermore to be / With Thee, my living Head. (TLH 196.5). Amen.

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