

Easter Sunrise

March 31, 2024

Resurrection of Our Lord (Year B)

Imagine Mary’s shock as she approached Jesus’ tomb and found the heavy stone rolled away and Jesus gone from where he had been laid days earlier. Two of the disciples went to investigate the situation but returned home without any answers. But Mary stayed near the tomb in her grief. As the risen Jesus called her by name, she joyfully hugged him before he sent her to go and tell the good news of the resurrection.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Exodus 15:1-11

Moses’ Song

After God delivered the Israelites from Pharaoh’s army, and certain death in the face of the Red Sea, Moses sang a song praising the victorious Lord. His poetic language described a watery grave for Israel’s captors. No one is like the God of Moses.

Psalm 118:15-29

Blessed is the Lord

The psalmist sang of the Lord’s strength and salvation. He spoke of the gate of righteousness, a gate he would go through thanks to the Lord. These words point us back to the Palm Sunday event with festal processions and palm branches.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 The Paschal Lamb Has Been Sacrificed

The image of leavened dough illustrates a spiritual truth related to the Passover where anything with yeast was to be discarded for the season. St. Paul urged the Corinthians to clean out their spiritual houses of all the old yeast that corrupted their lives. They were a new batch of dough because of what Christ has done.

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18

The Empty Tomb

Mary Magdalene and some other women arrived at the tomb to anoint the body of their beloved, Jesus. They found an empty tomb rather than his body which astonished them greatly. Unsure what to make of the situation, Mary ran to get Peter and the disciple Jesus loved. The two found the linens that had once covered Jesus but left not knowing what happened. Mary then was met by Jesus himself who revealed that he was not the gardener. She went and proclaimed that Christ is risen!

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- For a children’s anthem for today, check out “He Is Risen (Easter Blessing)” by Helen, Mark, and Naomi Johnson (CCLI # 7119879).
- If your congregation hid the Alleluias at the beginning of Lent, be sure to find them again and talk with children about the joyous word and what it means for us as believers.
- If you need an Easter morning skit, you can find five to choose from on the Seasonal Page of SOWeR.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150
The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done	135	---	464	366	---	---
Thine is the Glory	145	---	---	376	161	161
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds	143	---	465	367	159	159
Jesus Christ is Ris’n Today	151	---	457	365	---	---
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	158	---	821	392	154	154
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14
Let All Things Now Living	557	---	---	881	---	---
Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!	---	674	474	377	---	---
Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing	259	---	924	545	54	54

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
Christ is Risen (CCLI# 7107548)
Ashes (CCLI# 7035696)
Because He Lives (CCLI# 16880)
Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me) (CCLI# 5638022)
House of the Lord (CCLI# 7168995)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.