

Digital Worship: Easter Day

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Increase in us a desire to shine forth the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.
Amen.

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ!
Thanks be to God.
The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.
The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! The shadow vanishes forever! Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with its joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

Hymn- Jesus Christ is Risen Today (lyrics on last page)

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Readings

Jeremiah 31:1-6

God's final word is always "Yes." Because God's love is everlasting, God always remains faithful. Ancient Israel is assured that it will be rebuilt and have plentiful crops. The people of God too will ultimately be reunited.

1At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. 2Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,
3the Lord appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
4Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!
Again you shall take your tambourines,
and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.
5Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant,
and shall enjoy the fruit.
6For there shall be a day when sentinels will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:
“Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the Lord our God.”

Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

1If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Matthew 28:1-10

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

1After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Sermon

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders (especially). Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died (especially). Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

Of course we can not collect a physical offering in the way we typically do. However we want to remember that even across digital distance, our generous giving is an act of worship, recognizing that God is the giver of all we have. You can give through our website, stmarkcliftonheights.org or mail in an offering to the church. Thank you for your support!

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to pray: **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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass**

against us. Lead us not to temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn- Thine is the Glory (Lyrics on last page)

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
 our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
 who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
 our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
 now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
 where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
 praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

Christ has Arisen, Alleluia

- 1 Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia. For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

- 2 For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo, and in its conquest his might did show. *Refrain*

- 3 The angel said to them, "Do not fear. You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare. Only the graveclothes are lying there." *Refrain*

- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*

- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Swahili text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*