

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Introduction to the day

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Ps. 118:24*)

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY - Memory and Hope

Of all the Sundays for Jesus to be absent from the gospel story! How can he be missing on Easter? Go figure.

Since Jesus is nowhere to be found, the women who go to the tomb have no evidence of the resurrection but only the testimony of two mysterious figures: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again” (Luke 24:5-7).

And they remembered.

The women's memory is more than simple recall. Their sudden recollection of Jesus' prophecy implies a deeper level of comprehension. And with new insight into the bewildering events they have witnessed comes a stirring of hope for what is to come.

The Akan people of Ghana in West Africa give us the wisdom of *sankofa*, the principle that by reaching back, we may move forward. The *sankofa* proverb teaches, “It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot.” We face the future by grasping the past.

That is a good way to describe Christians’ confession of faith. We are all like the women at the tomb on Easter morning. We have no evidence of the resurrection, but only the testimony we have received from others, all the storytellers and saints throughout the generations. Recalling their witness, we proclaim the Easter promise again today. Memory and hope go hand in hand.

So remember, beloved. Remember: where even two or three of you are gathered, the living Christ will be there with you. Remember: blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Remember: if Christ has gone to prepare a place for you, he will come again and take you to himself, so that where he is, there you may be also.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ’s resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife, Ukraine, Gaza. Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving especially

Linda Boland, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Cassie Jessup, Bill Lorbetskie, Glenda Panke, Barry Rogers, Marilyn Schneider, Danny Schultz, Doug Sell, Debbie Thom, Keith Weckwerth, Elaine Yourth, Stephanie Yourth, and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts those who need your healing touch. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community of Eganville. Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.