



EASTER SUNRISE

APRIL 5, 2026 | 6:00 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Easter is the earliest Christian festival, celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the grave in triumph over sin and death. This service, patterned after the ancient Easter Vigil, involves a sequence of readings from the Old Testament that review the history of salvation. Today our service begins with the lights dimmed as we walk with the women to Jesus' tomb early Easter morning. Jesus' burial on Friday had happened in haste; His followers fully expected nothing more than to prepare Jesus' body for the sleep of death. As the Easter day dawns, the light in the sanctuary grows, symbolizing the resurrection of Jesus, the Light of the world.

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.

All gather in silence.

INTRODUCTION

HYMN 456 "*Were You There*" (v. 3)

EASTER GOSPEL *John 20:1-10*

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes.

HYMN 456 "*Were You There*" (v. 4)

OPENING SENTENCES & EASTER GREETING

adapt. from Psalm 16:11; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Psalm 118:17

- P** The LORD makes known to us the path of life;
C **in His presence there is fullness of joy.**
P Christ has been raised from the dead,
C **the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**
P I will not die but live,
C **and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**
P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

EASTER PROCLAMATION

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**



The Creation

FIRST READING *Genesis 1:1 – 2:2*

The reading concludes:

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

P Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN 467 *“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”* (vv. 1–4)



The Flood

SECOND READING *Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13*

The reading concludes:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ’s body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN 467 *“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”* (vv. 5–7)



The Testing of Abraham

THIRD READING *Genesis 22:1–18*

The reading concludes:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN 463 *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”*



Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

FOURTH READING *Exodus 14:10 – 15:1*

P When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their

right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

C “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN 487 *“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”*



A New Heart and a New Spirit

FIFTH READING *Ezekiel 36:24–28*

The reading concludes:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Alleluia!



Job Confesses the Redeemer

SIXTH READING *Job 19:20–27 NIV*

- P** “I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth. “Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me. Why do you pursue me as God does? Will you never get enough of my flesh? “Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!
- C** “**I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!**”
- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN 461 “*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*” (vv. 1–2, 5–7)



The Gathering of God's People

SEVENTH READING *Zephaniah 3:12–20*

The reading concludes:

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

P O Lord, have mercy.

C **O Christ, have mercy.**

P O Lord, have mercy.

C **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, hear us.**

P Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world, who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification, who foretold Your passion saying, “The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,”

C **have mercy on us.**

P Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light, whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women, who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread, who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit, who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish, who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road, who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

C **have mercy on us.**

P By Your glorious resurrection from the dead, good Lord, deliver us.

C **By Your victory over sin and death, good Lord, deliver us.**

P By the majesty of Your risen body, good Lord, deliver us.

C **We poor sinners implore You to hear us, Lord Jesus.**

P That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,

C **grant us, good Lord.**

P That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,

C **grant us, good Lord.**

P That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,

C **grant us, good Lord.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace. ►**

- P** O Lord, have mercy.
C O Christ, have mercy.
P O Lord, have mercy.
C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

- C** 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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C Amen.
P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN 475 “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*”

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgists*
Kathryn Oetting, *Organist*
Braylon Wiskur, Jace Heins, *Acolytes*

“Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity.”

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