

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

HELD AT

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH, TOOWOOMBA

2024



INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

EASTER SUNRISE GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

Early on Sunday, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So, she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved. She told them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

Therefore, Peter and the other disciple went out and began to go to the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

Simon Peter, who was behind him, also arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the strips of linen but wrapped up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and began to believe. For they did not yet know the Scripture, that He had to rise from the dead.

So, the disciples went back again to their lodgings.

Mary was standing outside, facing the tomb and crying. While she was crying, she bent over to see into the tomb. She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where Jesus’ body had been lying, one at the head, and the other at the feet. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

She told them, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there but did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? For whom are you looking?”

She thought that He was the gardener and said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him! Then I shall take Him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (The word means “Teacher”).

Jesus told her, “Stop holding on to Me! For I have not yet gone up to the Father. Instead, go to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am going up to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God’!”

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.

M: Here ends the Gospel

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord’s resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

We proceed quietly into the church and remain standing

OPENING VERSES

M: O Lord, open my lips

C: And my mouth will tell of Your praise.

M: Make haste O God, to deliver me

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

The congregation sits

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, ALLELUIA! # 88

1

Jesus Christ is risen 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 heavenly 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!

The congregation stands

CONFESSION

M: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may

delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

M: Almighty God in His mercy has given you His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT

All: Protect me, O God! For I have taken refuge in You.

I have been saying to the LORD: “You are my Lord. Without You I have nothing good.”

As for the holy people who are in the land, they are the excellent people, and all my delight is in them.

Those who run after another god will have many sorrows. I shall not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are my allotted portion and my cup. You are firmly holding what has been allotted to me.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely, I have a delightful inheritance.

I shall bless the LORD, who has given me advice. Even during the nights my inmost parts teach me.

I have set the LORD before Me constantly. Because He is at My right hand, I shall not stagger.

Therefore, My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices. My body also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol or allow Your Faithful One to see decay.

You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.

Psalm 16

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

488

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.
My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Hymn accompaniment: 395

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET
887 887 4444 8

The congregation sits

THE READINGS

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain, the LORD of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet with aged wines, rich foods full of marrow and refined, aged wines. ⁷ On this mountain He will destroy the surface of the shroud that is covering all peoples and the blanket that has been woven over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death for ever. The Lord GOD will wipe

away tears from all faces and remove the disgrace of His people from the whole earth. For the LORD has spoken. ⁹ On that day people will say: “Look! This is our God. We have been waiting for Him to save us. This is the LORD, for whom we have been waiting. Let us rejoice and be glad that He has saved us!”

After the reading:

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹ My fellow-Christians, I am telling you the Good News that I told you, which you also received and on which you also stand. ² You are also saved by it if you cling to the Word that I have preached to you, unless you have become believers in vain. ³ For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins as the Scriptures said He would, ⁴ and that He was buried and that He was raised again on the third day as the Scriptures said He would, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, He appeared to more than five hundred Christians at the same time, most of whom are still living, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then He appeared to James and then to all the apostles, ⁸ and, last of all, He appeared to me also, as to someone abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not deserve to be called an apostle, because I had been persecuting the church of God. ¹⁰ However, by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me has not been without effect; but I have worked harder than all the others have — yet not I, but the grace of God, which has been with me. ¹¹ Now, whether I have done it or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you have believed.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

The congregation stands for the Gospel

The Gospel is announced, and the congregation responds:

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint Jesus. ² On Sunday they were coming to the tomb very early when the sun had just come up. ³ They asked one another, “Who is going to roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?”

⁴ However, when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back, even though it was very large. ⁵ As they went into the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting at the right side and were amazed.

⁶ He told them, “Do not be amazed any longer! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. See the place where He was laid! ⁷ Go, however, and tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you!’”

⁸ They went out and hurried away from the tomb, because they were trembling and bewildered, and said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: 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, dead and 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.

The congregation sits

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE AND SING 105

1

Good Christian men, rejoice and
sing!

Now is the triumph of our King;
To all the world glad news we
bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2

The Lord of life is risen for aye;
Bring flowers of song to strew His
way;

Let all mankind rejoice and say:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3

Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot
die,

And sing with hearts uplifted
high:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life
restored:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE SERMON

Mark 16:1-8 Just as He told you.

The collection is received during the singing of the next hymn

CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING 761

1

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing,
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

2

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now
And conquer every place and time.

3

Not throned above, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Saviour with the Father reigns.

4

In every insult, rift, and war,
Where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
He suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, though ever crucified.

5

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
Through this and every future age,
Till all creation lives and learns
His joy, His justice, love, and praise.

The congregation stands and sings the following as the offering is presented to the altar

WHAT SHALL I GIVE TO GOD, MY SAVIOUR 362

What shall I give to God, my Saviour,
For all He gives me day by day?
Can I bestow on Him a favour,
Or for His loving kindness pay?
The best of offerings He requires,
It is my heart that He desires.

PRAYER FOR EASTER

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, You fulfilled Your promises by the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead. You have given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. In Your compassion, You sent Christ to lay down His life for us and to

rescue us. Drive away all doubt and gloom, fear and anxiety that may fill our hearts and lives. Lift our eyes heavenward to see Him who lives to make intercession for the saints and grant us confidence in the greatness of His power. Make us instruments of Your peace as we bring the Good News of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that You have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

EASTER BENEDICTION (based on Romans 6:10, Hebrews 13:20)

M: Since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has any power over Him.

C: The life He lives, He lives to God. Alleluia!

M: Because of our sins, He was handed over to die; and He was raised to life in order to put us right with God.

C: The life He lives, He lives to God. Alleluia!

M: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **C: Amen.**

M: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The congregation sits

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN # 95

1

He is risen, He is risen!
Tell it with a joyful voice;
He has burst His three days'
prison
Let the whole wide world rejoice.
Death is conquered, man is free,
Christ has won the victory.

2

Come with high and holy
gladness,
Chant our Lord's triumphant lay
Not one touch of twilight
sadness
Dims His resurrection day;
Brightly dawns the radiant east,
Brighter far our Easter feast.

3

He is risen, He is risen!
He has opened heaven's gate;
We are free from sin's dark prison,
Risen to a holier state;
Soon a brighter Easter beam
On our longing eyes shall stream.

Article: Jesus Has the Final Say

A long time ago Job said, “*Therefore, I wish that my words were written! I wish that they were inscribed on a scroll!*”²⁴ *I wish that they were engraved for ever on rock with a stylus of iron and lead!*”²⁵ *I myself know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last He will stand on the dust.*”²⁶ *After this, my skin will surround this body, and from my flesh I shall see God”* (Job 19:23-26).

These words of the prophet Job, where he expresses his confident hope in Christ’s resurrection, serve us well this fine Easter day. Today is the day that our Lord triumphed over death and the grave for us. Though He died, yet He lives. Because He lives, we shall live also. The empty tomb we celebrate today shows us that Christ, not death nor the devil, gets the final say.

The Book of Job is not always high on the list of books of the Bible that we love to read. That’s partly because of its length and partly because a large portion of it is poetic. These mark it harder for us moderns to dive into it than, say, Luke or Acts. Most of us, however, are familiar with Job, especially the opening chapters. In just the first chapter, Job, who was a righteous and faithful man, lost his seven sons and three daughters. Job was also a wealthy man who lost all his sheep, camels, oxen and donkeys, and beloved servants. In just a short course of time, Job lost everything that he had and loved. They all died. The temptation for Job throughout the book is to doubt God’s goodness and allow death and the devil to have the final say. Job’s friends and even his wife pester him to believe this.

It’s a temptation we share, as well, to think that death is the final authority. We think that we’re all going to die, and there’s nothing we can do but wait and accept our fate.

The women had accepted it when they went to the tomb. After all, it had been three days since they saw, with their own eyes, Jesus die on the cross. The reason they went to the tomb was to perform one last act of love for their Master. They were going to anoint His body with oil and spices to cover the stench of death’s decay. Jesus’ promised resurrection wasn’t on their minds – only the large stone blocking the entrance to the tomb and who was going to move it for them. They had accepted Jesus’ death – that death would claim

Him just as it does everyone else – and now they only worried about how to get to His dead body.

When they got to the tomb, though, what did they find? They found that the stone had been rolled away. Going into the tomb, they found that it was empty, except for a young man sitting on the right side – an angel. The angel said to them, “*Do not be amazed any longer! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here*” (Mark 16:6) In other words, their ideas about who had the final say in all things were incorrect. It is true that Jesus did die. The death He died, He died as the once-for-all-time payment for our sins. But death could not hold Him, and it didn’t get the final say. The empty grave shows that it belongs to Jesus. He did battle with death and the devil for us, and burst forth triumphantly from the grave.

Job, for his part, was a prophet. By His grace, the Holy Spirit gave Job to see Christ’s resurrection and the great blessing that comes through it. You see, when Christ rose from the dead, He took away death’s fearsome fangs and claws. Death no longer has the power to enslave because Christ tripped the snare, but He didn’t do it just for Himself. The Scriptures say that those who are joined to Christ by Baptism and by faith are joined to His death and resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus means the resurrection of those who believe in Jesus, such as Job. Job knew that, even after everything else wastes away, Christ gets the final say. And what does He say? To us, He says, “Life.”

This is what we celebrate today. God is on our side; what can death do to us? Jesus did die; this is true. He died on the cross as the payment for our transgressions. But, today, He rose. His resurrection shows that our sins are paid for and that death no longer gets the last word. That belongs to Jesus who, by His death and resurrection, makes our death but the gateway to eternal life in Him. By His resurrection, Jesus removes death’s sting. It is still bad; it is still the punishment of our sin, but we no longer need to fear it. We remember the words of Psalm 118:17-18, “*I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, but has not given me over to death*” (118:17-18).

The empty tomb shows that our Lord, not death, gets the final say. After three days, He burst forth from that dreadful prison and left its bars shattered for those who are in Him. When He returns, He will give eternal life to mortal bodies and we shall live with Him forever. Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Children’s Message:

What a special day! We have come to the Lord’s house to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! All that suffering and pain that Jesus felt before He died on the cross on Good Friday is over! He has risen, just like He said He would. Jesus is alive – never to die again.

Do you get Easter eggs this time of year? The small ones made of chocolate are usually solid, but what about the bigger ones? When you bite into them, they are hollow inside – there is nothing in them.

Well, that hollow egg is a wonderful reminder for us about Jesus’ resurrection. How? Well, when those women whom we heard about in our Gospel today went out to the tomb to anoint Jesus, what did they find? The tomb, like a hollow



Easter egg, was empty! Jesus was no longer dead! The young man dressed in white, who was an angel, was instead in the tomb, and he told those women, “*You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. See the place where He was laid!*” (Mark 16:6). Jesus wasn’t in the tomb. Where was he? Well, He soon appeared to those women. He appeared to His disciples. He appeared to lots of other people.

But is Jesus here, with us? Certainly, He is. How? He is with us in His Word and Sacraments. You can’t see Jesus like the women and disciples did on Easter, but He promised to be here when you hear about how He died and rose for us when you were baptised, when we worship Him together in church, and when your parents receive His body and blood in Holy Communion.

But not just in church. Jesus will always be with you. When you're in your bedroom at home, in your chair at school, in the grocery store, driving around town, or playing with friends. You can believe Jesus is with you then too, because the tomb was empty and Jesus has promised always, always to be with you to the very end of the world. *Thank You Jesus for Your death and resurrection. On this happy day, help me remember that You are always with me! Amen.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

7 April 2 Easter	14 April 3 Easter	21 April 4 Easter
8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.00am GRN LR 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am MARBURG LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC
Sunday, 7 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:32-35;	1 John 1:1-2;	John 20:19-31
HYMNS: 95 768 829 (368 289) 508		
Sunday, 14 April		
READINGS: Acts 3:11-21;	1 John 3:1-7;	Luke 24:36-49
HYMNS: 90 323 497 (294 839) 105		
Sunday, 21 April		
READINGS: Acts 4:1-12;	1 John 3:16-24;	John 10:11-18
HYMNS: 391 154 381 (161 289) 390		

Tomorrow, Easter Monday, 10.00am. Children's Easter Picnic at Aubigny. Could each family please provide something for a shared lunch? (savoury, finger food, sweets, etc).

Wednesday, 10 April, 10.00am. Women's Guild at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Opening Devotion: Leanne. Choose a Bible verse from Numbers 20-23. Item of Interest: Something pink.

Pastor is putting together an order for the *Lutheran Service Book*. At our AGMs, it was discussed if we could begin using hymns out of this hymnbook and gradually moving to it, as the Lutheran Hymnbook we now use is out of print and unavailable for purchase. If any individuals/congregations wish to order a copy, please get these orders to pastor by 21 April. The current price for the hymnbooks is about \$70.00, but it could be cheaper with bulk purchases. Also note that there are 2 editions. A regular, soft-covered edition about the size of our hymnbook, and also a larger hardcover edition with larger print. Pastor has a copy of both and will bring them along to worship services over the coming weeks if you wish to look at them before deciding which one to purchase.

“Do not be amazed any longer! You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here” (Mark 16:6)