

Order of Service for the Home on Easter!



Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You may now play the Easter worship video, located under the “Worship Resources” tab at www.bethanycr.org. After the video, you may continue with the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed. A copy of the Easter sermon is also located at the end of this Worship Resource.

Scripture Lesson – Matthew 28:1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”



Sermon – † *Coming To and Going From This Easter* †

The Second Article of Apostles’ Creed and Luther’s Explanation

[I believe] ...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, died, and was 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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is My Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayers of the Day

Let us pray... Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord’s resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Bethany’s Prayer List

Medical professionals; Maryellen (mother of Tina Freese) - Cancer recurrence; Katie (daughter of Mike & Lora Raymon) - Recovering after surgery; Richard Pfeil - Hospitalization; Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich) – Chemo; Harold (grandfather of Amanda Segebart) - Health issues; Bev Linman - Recovering from illness; Glen (brother of Rob Sieck) - Cancer; Dave Christian- Recovering after hospitalization; Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina) - Shingles; Doug Sorenson (former member) - Rehab after surgery; John Hamm - Recovering after hospitalization; Kris Dunn - Health issues; Vern Happel - Health issues; Brenda Heims - Recovering after surgery; Joyce Fritz - Health issues; Bonnie Bubke - Recovering at home after hospitalization; Betty Hein - Recovering at home; Stephanie Macke - Recovering after radiation treatments; Nadine Wax - Recovering at home; Al Bachman - Cancer treatments; Tailor & Charlie (grandsons of Kim Neuhaus) – serving in the Armed Forces; Carol Edwards – mourning the death of her Aunt, Ruth; & all of Bethany’s Shut-Ins.

The Lord’s Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in Your Kingdom this night and teach us 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; 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

This Easter morning may the blessing of almighty God—the Father, who sent His Son into the flesh, the ✝ Son, who took upon Himself our humanity to die and rise for us, and the Holy Spirit, who has given us faith to rejoice in our Lord’s resurrection—be upon all of us this day and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen!

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!



A special “thank you” to everyone who purchased flowers this Easter:

Phil & Shirley Hoppe – In memory of their son, Mike

Carol Edwards – In memory of her husband, John

Mike & Lora Raymon – In memory of Lora’s mom, Leota Novotny & Mike’s dad, Jim

Aaron & Tracy Moffett – In memory of Tracy’s mom, Anita VonAhsen

Dave & Kay Karsten – In memory of their son, Eric

Carol Grimminger – In memory of her grandson, Henry

Doug and Sheryl Knutson – In memory of Sheryl’s parents

Lorna Fischer – In memory and honor of loved ones

Mike & Dawn Thomas

Cooper Crow

Rita Tiedt



Easter Sermon: ✝ Coming To and Going From This Easter ✝

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the sun began to rise on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb of Jesus. Days before, they had seen Jesus be brutally tortured and executed. Days before they were there sitting opposite of the tomb when Joseph of Arimathea placed the body of Jesus inside. So as the sun began to rise and chase away the night on that first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary brought a lot of darkness to the tomb that morning. They came with the darkness of loss and sadness. They came to the tomb with the darkness of what tombs are for – the darkness of death.

What kind of darkness do you bring with you to this Easter morning? What are the things that you have seen over these last few days that throw a dark veil over any rays of joy or hope that you might have otherwise had? I’m sure that for many of us, we come to the dawn of this day with the darkness of the coronavirus lingering over us. This virus has certainly brought the darkness of an uncertain future to billions of people around the world. Perhaps it has brought the darkness of sickness into our lives or the life of someone we know and for whom we care. Perhaps we come to this Easter morning with the darkness of an uncertain professional, or academic, or social, or financial future because of this virus. Maybe the darkness that we have this Easter has nothing to do with a virus. Maybe the darkness is caused by the sin that is on our lips, or in our hearts, or the sin that wages war with the members of our bodies, tempting us to do the things we know we should not do. Perhaps, we come to this Easter morning in the midst of the darkness death. Death that every person that has ever lived has had to face, regardless of a deadly virus being present or not.

When the women reached the tomb that first Easter morning, the angel sitting on the rock said to them, *“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who is crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said! Come, see the place where He lay!”* When the women reached the

tomb, this angel had rolled the large stone away from the entrance of the tomb. Flashing like lightning and descending in an earthquake, this angel of the Lord terrified the guards of the tomb so much so that they became like dead men. Doing all of this, the angel removed every obstacle that stood in the way of the women to look inside the tomb where Jesus once lay. No more giant stone. No more guards. They had been taken away. So when the angel said to Mary and Mary, who were carrying such a heavy burden of darkness with them that morning, “Do not be afraid”, they were able to look inside and see that Jesus had risen just as He said!

Jesus had told His disciples and followers that He must suffer and be rejected and killed. But as He was arrested and beaten, lifted up on the cross and breathed His last, it seems that His followers had forgotten that He also said He would rise again (Luke 9:22). The darkness of the moment overwhelmed them so that they could not see the promise of the good things to come. So, God sent a messenger, an angel, who not only reminded them of Jesus’ promise to rise from the dead, but also removed everything in their way that would keep them from seeing that Jesus kept His promise completely. And seeing this promise fulfilled, the women’s fear was replaced with a great Easter joy.

Today, in the midst of whatever darkness that you face, God comes to you and tells you not to be afraid. Of course, we are in the middle of a pandemic; people are sick and are dying. There is uncertainty surrounding our nation, our economy, our families and sometimes even our lives. And in the midst of all of this darkness, God does what He has always done for thousands of years. He doesn’t send a heavenly messenger, but He does send us His Holy Word. He gives to us the Scriptures, that tell us to not be afraid of all the things that bring darkness into our lives. But even more than that, this Word of God removes the obstacles of doubt and uncertainty to let us look into the empty tomb with the eyes of our faith. And seeing that Jesus is still not there, just as He said He wouldn’t be, we know that He will continue to keep His promises to us. Promises to never leave nor forsake us. Promises to forgive us and strengthen us to live as His followers. Promises to give us victory over our graves and to come again so that we might be where He is right now.

If we came to this Easter with any of the darkness of sin, or sadness, or sickness or death, let us join with Mary and Mary to hear God’s Word that Christ has risen so that we too may run from this Easter day, not with fear, but with great joy in the light of God’s love and hope through Jesus our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

