

ONE LIFE.

ONE DEATH.

ONE

Victorious

EMPTY

TOMB.



+ The Resurrection of our Lord +

Welcome

to the empty tomb of God's risen and living Son, our only Savior and Lord! The message of Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the foundation for all Christian truth and teaching. We are glad we can share that joyful hope with you today. May your Easter be a truly happy one as we celebrate our Lord's triumph over sin, death and the devil.

Sound Check

*Once you are parked, please shut off the engine and switch your vehicle ignition to the auxiliary setting. **Please tune your radio to FM 100.5** and adjust your volume.*

Preservice Sing Along

Feel free to sing or hum along with our preservice music. Or, use the time for quiet meditation or preparation. Please note that stanzas marked in bold will also be sung during today's worship service.

152 I Know that My Redeemer Lives

- 1. I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living Head!**
- 2. He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save.
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.**
3. He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to plead for me above.
He lives, my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
4. He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with his eye.
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
5. He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives, all blessings to impart.
6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
7. He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.
8. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

341 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

- 1. Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.**
2. Crown him the Lord of love -- Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.
- 3. Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**
4. Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns For he is King of all.

148 *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
2. Death's mightiest pow'rs have done their worst,
And Jesus has his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst. Alleluia!
3. On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain! Alleluia!
4. He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let songs of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!
5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,
From death's sting free your servants, too,
That we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Here is Love

1. Here is love vast as the ocean, Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our ransom, Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten Throughout heav'n's eternal days.
2. On the Mount of Crucifixion, Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the flood-gates of God's mercy Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love like mighty rivers Poured incessant from above;
Heaven's peace and perfect justice Kissed a guilty world in love.
3. Here is love that conquered evil: Christ, the firstborn from the grave;
Death has failed to be found equal To the life of Him Who saves.
In the valley of our darkness Dawned His everlasting light;
Perfect love in glorious radiance Has repelled death's hellish night.

*Lyrics: vs. 1 & 2 by William Rees (1802-1883), v. 3 by Matt Giles,
Music by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)*

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Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (spoken) Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

157 (1-2) *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!**

Easter Dialogue

P: I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

C: Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

P: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn

152 (1-2) *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

The Word

Lesson

Colossians 3:1-4 | EHV

Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Hymn

162 *He Is Arisen, Glorious Word*

**He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie, Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear What cheer! Christ victorious, Rising glorious, Life is giving.
He was dead, but now is living!**

Sermon

Matthew 28:1-10 | EHV

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!”

They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Your Savior is Victorious! - Do not be Afraid

If you would like to follow along, you will find

Pastor Van Kampen’s sermon manuscript on pages 9-11

Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Easter Blessing

Jude 24-25

P: To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-27

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put my name on them, and I will bless them.”

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

341 (1 & 3) *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Worship Leader: Pastor Korey Van Kampen

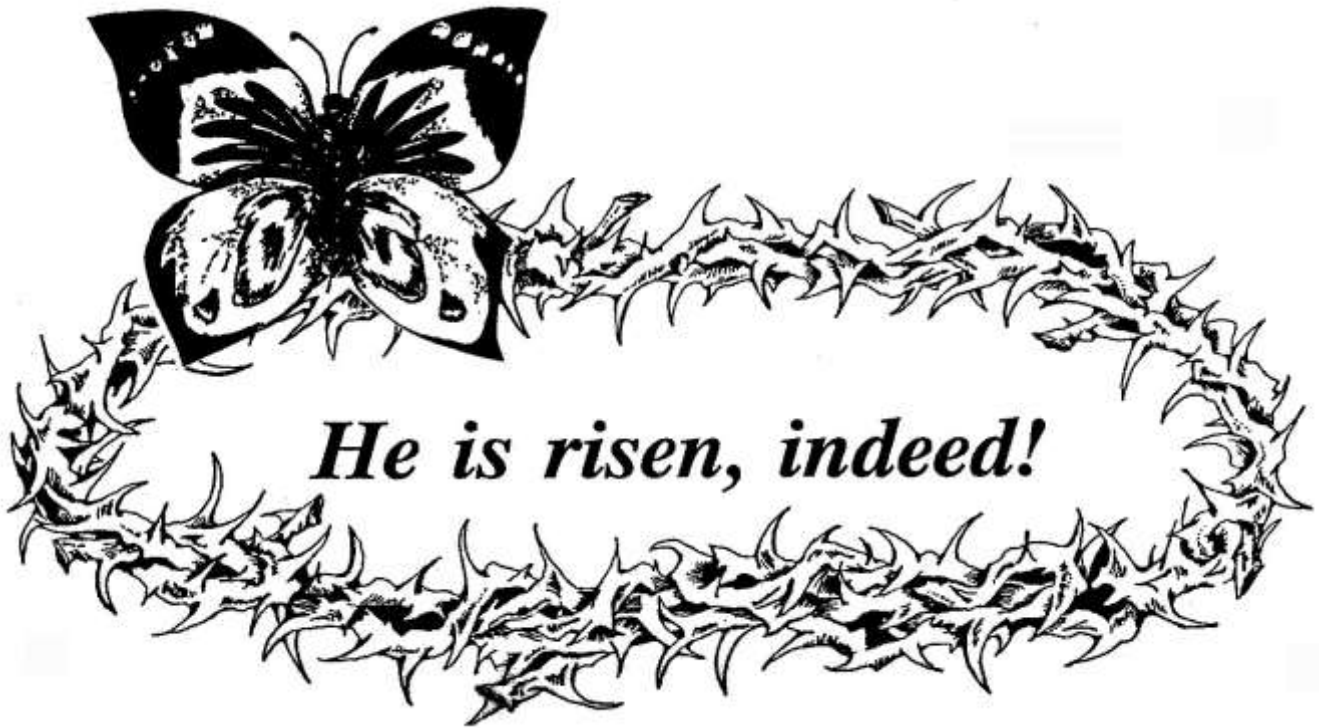
Accompaniment: Kim Pilz

Technical Assistance: Donovan Waege

***Special thanks to those who helped record today's service
for our cable and internet broadcasts and those who directed traffic!***

Offerings

Offerings will be received as you leave the parking lot. Thank you for joining us today and for your continued support of our church and school.



+ Easter +

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tomah, Wisconsin, www.stpaultomah.org

Pastor Curt S. Backhaus Pastor Korey Van Kampen

Interim Principal Scott Nerby

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+ The Resurrection of our Lord +
(Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020)
Pastor Korey Van Kampen

Matthew 28:1-10

How did we ever get here? Do you ever look around your life today and think that? Maybe it's when you haven't seen your neighbors for two, going on three weeks. Maybe it's when you look at our gathering this morning, and instead of being inside a church and hugging each other and shaking hands, we're waving at each other through the windows of our cars, (Or you're waving at a computer or TV screen.) Think back to early March. We were living life, going here and there, doing this and that, making plans for the rest of the school year and the summer, and maybe the months beyond that. And now, here we are, locked down in our homes and wondering when life will get back to normal -- and not only that, we're wondering what normal will actually be like when we get to go back to it. So much has happened so fast, and all the uncertainty, all the change, and the fact that all of it was so unexpected has a way of making you feel defeated, doesn't it?

If that's what you're feeling today, that's got to be just the tip of the iceberg for how the two Mary's felt on Easter morning as they went to see Jesus' tomb. So much had happened so fast. Just a week earlier, they couldn't believe how Jesus entered into Jerusalem -- he was welcomed as a King! It was Hosanna to the Son of David. But then Thursday evening he was betrayed. Then he stood trial before both the Jewish high court and the Roman governor, and was condemned to death by both. Then he was crucified, and finally died and was placed in a tomb. The person they had trusted, counted on, and loved was gone. The person they thought was the promised one sent from God was dead -- along with their hopes. Now here they were, wondering what the future held for them because it was remarkably different than it was just a week before. I'm sure they looked at everything and said, "How did we ever get here?" They had to have felt utterly defeated as they walked to the tomb that morning trying to make sense of it all.

But, something else had happened that morning -- maybe even while they were on their way to the tomb -- an angel came down from heaven. The battle-hardened soldiers that had been guarding the tomb became so afraid at this angel that they themselves convulsed and fainted. The angel rolled away the stone that sat at the entrance to Jesus' tomb and used it as his own park bench. Put yourself into the shoes of those women when they arrive. They were expecting to find the tomb sealed, but it was open. They were expecting to find soldiers standing guard, but they were passed out. They were expecting to find the body of Jesus, but the only one they found was this angel. What was going on?

Listen to the angel. First, he instructs them: "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said." I know why you came here -- to see the body of Jesus. But he's not here because he has been raised from the dead! At least three times he told you himself that this was going to happen! Next, he invites them: Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Don't just take my word for it, see for yourself that he's not here. And Then he sends them: Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' So the women do it. They hurry away with a new emotion in their hearts. They're afraid -- they're not sure what to make of it all and what it means for them. It's all so new, all so unknown -- and yet they're filled with joy. Could it really be true? Could Jesus be alive? Could all their hopes that had been dead just 36 hours earlier suddenly be raised to life along with Jesus? Could it be that they were right, that Jesus really IS the promised one sent from God? Could it be? And suddenly, there's Jesus, alive and real and right in front of them. What else could they do at this point but fall at his feet and worship him!

So what are we to take from all this? The first thing is quite simple. Easter is real. It happened. Jesus really did die and rise again in his own body. It might be something you've known since you were little, or maybe it's something you're wrestling with for the first time - but it's real. There are several ways that Matthew brings this out. Here two of them. The first one is that he sets these events at a precise date and time. It's after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week. This isn't some "a long time ago in far away land" kind of thing. It's specific. This day. This time. This place. That's the language of history. The details invite questions and investigation. The second is in what the women do when they see Jesus. Matthew doesn't just say that they fell down and worshipped him -- but that they specifically took hold of his feet. Why specifically mention that they touched his feet? Think about all the images that you can conjure up in your mind of ghosts and spirits. What do they never have? Feet! In folklore from around the world, spirits and ghosts appear without feet or legs. But not Jesus. He has feet! The risen Jesus has feet that can be stood on and touched and even grabbed. This means that he rose from the grave not as a spirit, but in his body. Matthew tells us about Jesus' feet because what happened on Easter indeed was a real, bodily resurrection.

And because what happened on Easter is real, it has enormous implications for us today -- especially when we're feeling beat up by life and defeated. Because Easter is real, there are four words that can define your life. The angel said it, Jesus said it: The four words that can define your life are: "Do not be afraid."

You don't have to be afraid of your failures. I don't know about you, but the past

few weeks haven't exactly brought out the best in me. I've gotten short tempered with my kids and impatient with my wife. I've felt a load of demands that the circumstances have placed onto me -- Plans changing overnight and hours of work down the drain, having to learn new ways of doing familiar tasks on the fly, without a lot of training and guidance -- and then everyone else's work seems to end up looking a lot better than mine does. Have you felt that way? Or maybe now you're laid off work and you're afraid you won't be able to provide for your family because you couldn't manage to save up enough to live on for a few months if you needed to. Or maybe you've messed up big time in recent months and it's caused a lot of hurt and pain in your life and the lives of those you care about. Whatever it might be, you don't have to be afraid of your failures.

Here's why. Did you catch what Jesus said to the women? He told them to go and tell his disciples to meet him in Galilee -- except he didn't call them his disciples -- he called them his brothers. These same guys who were slow to understand him, who all but one had abandoned him -- even when they said they never would. These same guys who left him to suffer alone, Jesus calls them brothers. How can he do that? He forgives them. He forgives them because he lived perfectly in their place, died under their sin and rose again. And if that's how Jesus can forgive his disciples for how they hurt him -- it's certainly powerful enough for him to forgive you and me our failures before him too. So we don't have to be afraid of our failures because of one life, one death, and one victorious empty tomb.

Because Easter is real, you also don't have to be afraid of death. Death did its worst to Jesus on the cross. It went at him with everything it has, and on Easter, Jesus was victorious. By his own death, Jesus broke the power of its master, sin. And by his resurrection he broke the bonds of death. While death can still separate us from loved ones for a time, it cannot separate us from Jesus. So Easter comes with a promise. Death does not have the last word over you. Instead, death -- is just like going to sleep. Eventually you'll wake up. That means that we will be resurrected just like Jesus was. No matter what happens to you in this life, death cannot hold you. You will rise again to live in a perfect world with your perfect savior and that can never be taken away from you. We don't have to be afraid of death because of one life, one death, and one victorious empty tomb.

And finally, because Easter is real, you don't have to be afraid of uncertainty. I don't know what tomorrow holds. Neither do you. We don't know how we're going to come out of all the shut down -- maybe everything will pick up where it left off, maybe it won't and we'll be in for some economic hard times the likes of which most in our generations haven't seen. We don't know if anyone we know and love will get sick with this virus and how they'll react to it. Maybe we'll all be

fine, but maybe we won't. But no matter what life throws at us, and no matter how bad it might get in our world and in our lives, because sin and death have been defeated -- all of it is going to come to a blessed and glorious end. Easter means that a day is coming when poverty, danger, and disaster are banished forever. So no matter what the next 50 days or 50 years holds for you, in Jesus Christ your forever is fixed and it is glorious. We don't have to be afraid of uncertainty because of one life, one death, and one victorious empty tomb.

So we might not know how we got here. We might feel defeated by what's going on in the world today. We might be clobbered by more bad news. But none of it changes Easter. None of it changes what Jesus did in time and history 2000 years ago. None of it changes what Jesus accomplished for you and me. Easter means that Jesus is victorious over our sin -- we're forgiven. Easter means that Jesus is victorious over death -- it couldn't hold him and it cannot hold you. And Easter means that Jesus is victorious over all our uncertainties and fears -- All of it because of one life, one death, and one victorious empty tomb. Friends, Jesus, your savior is victorious! So don't be afraid! AMEN!



Tune in at 6:00 pm this evening for a live-streamed, synod-wide Easter worship celebration. Fellow believers from around the world will gather together virtually for this special event: **“Together at the Empty Tomb.”**

WELS President Mark Schroeder and WELS First Vice President James Huebner will preside, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow will preach. Join your Christian brothers and sister and get “Together at the Empty Tomb.”

livestream.com/wslive/togetherattheemptytomb

Welcome to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

Parking: please follow the directions of our parking attendants/ushers so we can safely and efficiently fit as many cars possible in our parking lot. Larger profile vehicles (SUVs/ trucks) may be directed to park toward the back.

Please stay in your vehicle: we're so sorry that you can't get out of your car to chat with your friends. We know that everyone misses each other, but we must limit ourselves to a smile, a wave, or a phone call.

Building/restroom access: the county health department has asked us to keep our facilities closed so that we stay well within the "safer-at-home" (safe in your car, too) guidelines. Sorry, we can't open restrooms either (that's why we're keeping our service short).

Sound check: once you are parked, please shut off the engine and switch your vehicle ignition to the auxiliary setting. **Please turn on your radio, tune in to FM 100.5** and adjust your volume.

Offerings: there will be a collection box available for as you exit.

The members of St. Paul have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are our guest today, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. We're happy that you already gave us the opportunity to share God's Word with you!

Exit: please follow the directions of the parking attendants. You will be asked to exit slowly along the alleyway either to Brownell or Foster. From there you can proceed either to Superior or to McLean.

Please join us again this Easter season at the empty tomb
of our Risen and Victorious Savior Jesus Christ!

Every Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Please invite your friends!