

April 5th, 2026
The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us after the service for brunch.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

HE LIVES TO TAKE ME FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Without the resurrection of Jesus, death would appear permanent. No one would have come back from the dead to explain what happens after death. Jesus told his disciples what would happen. But they were slow to believe the Easter truth. God ensured that his people had witnesses to assure that Jesus did not remain dead.

He lives, and it makes a difference! I too shall live. Death has become a pathway into paradise. Jesus has already made me spiritually alive by giving me faith in his resurrection. In every possible way, Jesus takes me from death to life.

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

HYMN: AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING

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The Call to Worship

M: I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

C: **Let us come before him with thanksgiving,
and extol him with music and song.**

M: The Lord's right hand is majestic in power. The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy. In the greatness of his majesty he threw down those who opposed him.

C: **Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

M: The Lord will not abandon me to the grave. He has made known to me the path of life.

C: **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

M: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

C: **Thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

C: **The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his
Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

M: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

C: **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and
wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

The First Lesson: At the Empty Tomb

After the Sabbath, early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

At dawn there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."

The women took the spices they had prepared. Very early, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

When the women entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. They saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again. But go quickly, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Then they remembered his words.

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead).

Then the disciples went back to their homes.

The Second Lesson: In the Garden

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven devils.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher.)

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary went to the disciples with the news that she had seen the Lord and that he had told her this.

Afraid yet filled with joy, the women ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them.

"Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders, they devised a plan. They gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble. So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

When the women came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. But when they heard that Jesus was alive they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and others with them who told this to the apostles.

The Third Lesson: On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country, going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one living in Jerusalem who doesn't know what things have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart that you do not believe all that the prophets have spoken!" Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Then they got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The Fourth Lesson: Behind Closed Doors

While they were still talking about this, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus himself came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. And while they still did not believe because of joy and amazement he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written....But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

HYMN: CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED

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The Fifth Lesson: Death Has Been Swallowed Up in Victory

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am,

and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them -- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed -- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "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.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

Sermon on Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

LORD'S PRAYER

720 OUR FATHER, THRONED IN HEAVEN ABOVE

Our Father, throned in heav'n above, you bid us all to live in love
as members of one family and pray to you in unity—
teach us no thoughtless words to say, but from our inmost hearts to pray.

1st Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, in purity to keep your Word,
that to the glory of your name we walk before you free from blame.
Let no false doctrine us pervert; all poor, deluded souls convert.

2nd Your kingdom come, we humbly pray, that Christ may rule in us today
and that your Holy Spirit bring still more to worship Christ as king.
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage; preserve your Church from age to age.

3rd Your gracious will on earth be done just as in heav'n around your throne,
that patiently we may obey throughout our lives all that you say.
Curb sinful flesh and ev'ry ill that sets itself against your will.

4th Give us today our daily bread, and let us all be clothed and fed;
from hardship, war, and earthly strife, from sickness, famine, spare our life.
Let selfishness and worry cease that we may live in godly peace.

5th Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore, that they may trouble us no more;
we, too, will gladly those forgive who hurt us by the way they live.
Help us in our community to serve each other willingly.

6th Into temptation lead us not. When evil foes against us plot
and vex our souls on ev'ry hand, O give us strength that we may stand
firm in the faith, a mighty host, through comfort of the Holy Ghost.

7th From evil, Lord, deliver us; the times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death, and, when we yield our dying breath,
console us, grant us calm release, and take our souls to you in peace.

B Amen, that is, so shall it be. Make strong our faith in you that we
may never doubt you but believe that what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in your name and at your word we say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text: Public domain

EASTER PRAYER

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C: He was delivered over to death for our sins, and raised to life for our justification.

M: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power which raised him from the dead.

C: We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

M: With the church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt. Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

C: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen lord.

C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia!

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

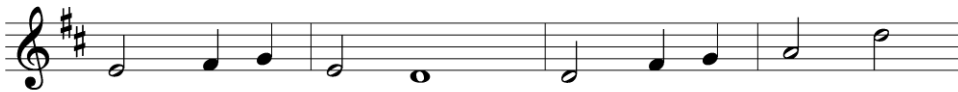
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

467 With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in songs of
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth in - to
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks and bring to Christ our



sweet ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, each
life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my shall
Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



take your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion.
van - quished be; his death has been death's un - do - ing.
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion.



To set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
"And yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," said
So shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599, abr.; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.

Tune: Cinquante Pseaumes, Geneva, 1543, alt.

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