

# Redeemer Lutheran Church San Antonio, Texas

March 31, 2024  
Easter Celebration

NOTES: Offerings will not be collected by passing plates. Please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located by the narthex.

We offer large print copies of the liturgy, and for Holy Communion we offer gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white grape juice.

Masks are not required, but you can wear one at your own discretion. There is no specified seating for bible class or worship.

## Prelude

### The Holy Week in review from the Apostles' Creed

**Pastor:** On Good Friday, Jesus “suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.”

**Congregation:** But, “on the third day He rose again from the dead.”

**Hymn:** “Were You There”  
Solo of resurrection verse by Ron Ottinger

“**An Easter Carol**”, Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right.

Faith and Hope triumphant say,  
Christ will rise on Easter-Day.

While the patient earth lies waking,  
Till the morning shall be breaking,  
Shuddering 'neath the burden dread  
Of her Master, cold and dead,  
Hark! she hears the angels say,  
Christ will rise on Easter-Day.

And when sunrise smites the mountains,  
Pouring light from heavenly fountains,  
Then the earth blooms out to greet  
Once again the blessed feet;  
And her countless voices say,  
Christ has risen on Easter-Day.

Up and down our lives obedient  
Walk, dear Christ, with footsteps radiant,  
Till those garden lives shall be  
Fair with duties done for Thee;  
And our thankful spirits say,  
Christ arose on Easter-Day.

**The Easter Proclamation:** (Please rise)

The Pastor proclaims the resurrection from the rear of the church, shouting three times:

**Pastor:** Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!

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

**The Opening Hymn:**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" – LSB #457

**The Easter Dialogue:**

**Men:** Christ is risen and He is here!

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

**Women:** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain!  
Alleluia!

**Congregation:** He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

**Men:** Rejoice then, even in your distress.

**Congregation:** We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

**Women:** God has claimed us as his own.

**Congregation:** God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

**Pastor:** (boldly) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Congregation:** (boldly) He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**The story of glory from old to new; one garden of death to a new garden of life:**

**Genesis 2:15-25; 3:1-24**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in

the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” <sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” <sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good

for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." <sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and

you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” <sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

## **Mark 16:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup> and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” <sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him,

just as he told you.””<sup>8</sup> Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

**Pastor:** These are the words of the Lord.

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

**Message Hymn:**

"The Day of Resurrection" – LSB #478

**The Dialogue Message:**

The Grief, the Discovery, the Conversation, and the Life

**Pastor:** An Eighth Word, Now From the Tomb: ““Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.” On Good Friday we considered the seven words of Jesus from the cross. From them we have drawn comfort, encouragement, and strength of His finished work for our salvation even as we journey through the wasteland of this morally barren and spiritually destitute earth. But all would be for naught, and we of all people would be the most deceived were it not for an eighth word, spoken in this case by the heavenly messenger, “He is not here: for He is risen, as He said.”

**Congregation:** The Apostle Paul in the grand resurrection chapter in his first epistle to the Corinthians (Chapter 15) wrote, “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.”

**Pastor:** Many witnesses and events substantiate the message of the angel to the women after the fact. It happened, “as He said.” These words are significant. Christ fulfilled the Scriptures.

**Congregation:** On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' graveclothes lying on the cold slab still wrapped round and round the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples.

**Pastor:** The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death.

**All:** Because He lives, nothing is impossible. He is, and remains “Immanuel” God with us! He is risen, He is risen Indeed! Alleluia!

**Easter Celebration Song:**

“This Joyful Eastertide” – LSB #482

**The confession of sin, positioning ourselves to hear the resurrected Jesus announce peace through His sacrifice for us:**

**All:** O Lord, we marvel that You should become incarnate, be crucified, dead, and buried. The grave calls forth our adoring wonder, for it is empty and you are risen; the four-fold gospel attests it, the living witnesses prove it, our



heart's experience knows it. Give us to die with You that we may rise to new life, for we wish to be as dead and buried to sin, to selfishness, to the world; that we might not hear the voice of the tempter, and might be delivered from his lies, and lusts. O Lord, there is much ill about us and sin within us – crucify it, much flesh within us – mortify it. Purge us from selfishness, the fear of man, the love of praise, the shame of being thought old-fashioned, the desire to be cultivated or modern. Grant us to stand with our dying Savior, to be content to be rejected, to be willing to take up unpopular truths, and to hold fast despised teachings until death. Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: may it rule us, may we walk in its power, and be strengthened through its influence. For the glory of our living Savior. Amen.

(moment of silence)

**Pastor:** God, the Father of Mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the power of the resurrected Lord of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and in His name and by His authority I announce the forgiveness of all your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

**The Easter Hymn of Power:**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” – LSB #477

## **The Words of Institution for Holy Communion**

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many.” (Mark 14:22–24)

## **Pre-communion Song:**

“This is the Feast” – LSB #155

## **Holy Communion:**

Please come up single file, socially distanced, in the center aisle. Pastor will distribute both the bread and wine, prompting you for each element. We have gluten-free wafers available, and we have non-alcoholic white grape juice in the center of the tray. After you are dismissed, please return down the side aisle(s).

## **The Benediction**

**Hebrews 13:20-21** “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

## **The Closing Song:**

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen” – LSB #474

## **Announcements:**

## **Postlude**

Please take the bulletin home or discard in the trash before you leave.

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