

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP April 12, 2020
EASTER SUNDAY

HYMN LSB 457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!

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!

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!

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!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

He is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness (*stand*)

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

Amen.

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

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

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

O, God, I know the wrong I have done, and my sin is always before me. I have broken your laws and done what is evil in your sight. Have mercy on me, according to your unfailing love. Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a pure heart and renew a faithful spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has sent His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 15:1-5, 16b-18

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. "The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone... By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone— until your people pass by, LORD, until the people you bought pass by. You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance— the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established. "The LORD reigns for ever and ever."

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

GOSPEL (stand)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 24:1-8

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, 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. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " Then they remembered his words.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN LSB 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

**Now all the vault of heaven resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Oh, fill us, Lord with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most Holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon A Song Of Joy

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is risen! He is risen indeed! In Christ Jesus, dear friends, Easter is a day of singing! But what kind of song shall we sing? There are many different kinds of songs, you know. There are love songs—quite a few of them in fact. There are songs about misery—we call them "the blues." There are country songs about trains, pickup trucks, prison and Momma—you either like them or you don't. There are folk songs and patriotic songs and children's songs and church songs that we call hymns. Each song has its own special character. But today calls for an extraordinary song because we are celebrating something extraordinary. Our Lord Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and we have eternal life! And that's worth singing about, so today we will sing a song of joy!

A long, long time ago, a man by the name of Moses sang a song of joy. He sang his song after God had delivered the Israelites out of Egypt and led them safely through the deep waters of the Red Sea. Pursued by their enemies with swords and chariots, they passed between towering walls of water and arrived safely on the other side. Moses had promised his followers, "the Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." And God **had** fought for them. After the Israelites passed through the sea, God withdrew his hand and let the walls of water come crashing down on the heads of their enemies, burying them in a watery tomb.

And so Moses sang a song of joy: He sang, "I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted...the Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him...in your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling." Moses' song is not only a song of joy; it is also a song that is filled with faith. God had told Moses beforehand what he was going to do and then he had done it. So Moses had learned not only that there is a God in heaven but that there is a God who loves his people and will always come to their aid. And so he sang a song of joy.

How about you? Are you singing a song of joy today like Moses did? Does knowing all that God has done for you put a song of joy in your heart or are you singing the blues? Are the woes of this life drowning out your joy? They can, you know. Maybe you're sick of being confined to your house. Maybe you're sick of hearing about the virus. Maybe you're just plain sick. The cares of this world can get us down and we can easily forget what's really important.

Only three days after God parted the waters of the Red Sea, the Israelites doubted that he would provide water for them in the wilderness and they began to mutter and grumble against God.

There are lots of things that can turn a person's life into muttering and grumbling. Worry is one of them. That seems to be what happened to Martha who spent so much time worrying about cooking and housecleaning that she couldn't take time to listen to the son of God when he came to her home. Like Martha, we get so bogged down with worrying about the nits and lice of daily living that we start singing a song of self-pity.

Maybe you have to contend with a serious problem in your life—with a medical problem or with chronic pain that no doctor can heal, and it's getting harder and harder to believe that God cares about you or even knows that you are suffering. That can certainly drown out your song of joy.

Maybe the problem is that you're making **yourself** the center of your song of joy rather than God. That's the popular thing to do nowadays—to look to yourself for whatever joy there is to be had. Did you know that Whitney Houston's first megahit, "Learning To Love Yourself Is The Greatest Love Of All," was originally entitled "Learning To Love The Lord Is The Greatest Love Of All?" Her producers knew that a song about loving the Lord would never hit the charts so they changed the "Lord" to "yourself" and it sold in the millions. No surprise there: self-love—otherwise called narcissism—has always been a sugarcoated lie that sells. Just convince yourself that you're loveable and you'll be fine! And if it occurs to you that some of the things you think and say and do are sinful—not to worry! Sin isn't the problem anyway—it's the idea of sin that's the problem. All you need is self-esteem! Learn to love yourself and you can compose your own song of joy. It may feel good and it may sell, but it's a lie. Every single person is born with an innate knowledge of right and wrong and every single person knows that they often do what is wrong rather than what is right. In other words, all of us know down deep that we are sinners. So with all due respect to Whitney Houston's producers, learning to love yourself means learning to love your sins among other things and that's a formula for pathology, not joy.

On the other hand, maybe your problem is that you spend **too much** time worrying about your sinful nature. Whether we're saved or not, we have a sinful nature that clings to us all the days of our lives in this world and it can seem like the toughest and most tenacious enemy we have. It's always with us—poisoning our thoughts, corrupting our language, tempting us to think and say and do things we abhor after we've thought and said and done them. And no matter how much we try to control it, it never gives up—and it often comes out on top. And we end up wondering how god could possibly love sinners like us and we are tempted to sing a song of despair.

So there are those who don't worry at all about their sinful nature and there are those who worry about it all the time. Neither of them can sing a song of joy because they are focused on themselves and not on God.

Now listen closely because I'm going to give you the best advice you've ever gotten—along with the best news you've ever heard. The advice is: **don't give up!**

I know it's a tough haul, but keep on trucking **and don't give up**. With their enemies at their back and the sea ahead, there was nothing Israelites could do but depend upon God. Only God could save them from destruction. And he did. In the same way, God is behind you to protect you from your enemies and he goes out in front of you to provide a way through that sea of troubles that frightens you. He hears your groaning. He knows that you feel like you are losing the battle again and again. But you're not losing the battle—as a matter of fact you've already won it. Just as David struck down Goliath and cut off his head, Jesus plowed the fields of hell and crushed the head of satan on the cross. Christ is the victor—not your sinful nature; so no matter how many battles it has won—you've won the war. So don't give up: you're not down in the trenches; whether it feels like it or not you're marching in a victory parade because. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." God delivered Moses and the children of Israel out of Egyptian darkness and he will deliver you out of whatever darkness lurks in your life. Let that knowledge awaken God's song of joy in your soul and then sing it every day for all you are worth!

But remember: only God can give you a song of joy. That's why Moses' song of joy is all about God and not Moses. That is why he sings, "**The Lord** is my strength and my song, and **He** has become my salvation." If your song is about yourself, sooner or later it will turn into a funeral dirge. But if your song is about God, he will keep you singing forever. All your sins—the ones you committed when you were younger, the ones you committed last week, the ones you committed this morning and the ones you're going to commit this afternoon and next week—God has already forgiven and forgotten them! And what you have in their place is eternal life! The risen Lord Jesus Christ is your song. There is no enemy he has not conquered for you: sin, death, the devil and your own flesh. You have the victory! Christ is your salvation, your faith and your song of joy. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

HYMN LSB 477 Alleluia, Alleluia, Hearts To Heaven Raise

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled--
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
Death at last has met defeat;
See the ancient p'wer of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once He died and once was buried;
Now He lives forevermore.
Jesus Christ, the world's redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
to the triune Majesty.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Dear Jesus,

You suffered the agonies of hell and death to pay the price for my sins. But then you rose from the tomb to open the door to me to eternal life. My thanks can never equal what you have done but please accept the thankfulness I have and help me to sing a song of joy to you every day of my life.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN LW 264 I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (Vs 1, 2 &8)

**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!**

**He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule his Church in love.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**