

early dawn." It appears that Luke did not intend this paragraph to be read separated from the previous paragraphs. Luke summarized an entire day in the last sentence of chapter 23. (Keep in mind that the chapter and verse divisions were added by the church 1000 years after this was written.) Luke said that his information came from eyewitnesses. We are reading the account as recalled by the women and by Peter. The women went to the tomb while the Apostles (notice Luke reminds us there were only, "eleven," at this point) did not remember the prophecy and did not believe the women. Only when he saw with the fulfillment did Peter, "marvel at what had happened," the Resurrection of Jesus is true, we have salvation in Him.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ O God of peace, Who brought us again from the death of our sin into the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep. Through His shed blood of Your everlasting covenant we have obtained His life and we thank and praise You for Your mercy, shown to us, in His glorious Resurrection.

Give us the radiant joy of the first Easter. Fill our hearts with its sublime announcement and precious promise. Make us glad in the heavenly tidings that He Who died for our sins rose again for our justification; that because He lives, we too shall live; that death has no power over us; that He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.

Grant us a lively faith, that we may receive both the infallible proofs of His death and the infallible testimonies of His Resurrection. As You have declared that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that You raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved, endow us with all such spiritual gifts as obtain for us salvation.

For our Church we pray: Grant that everywhere we may have faithful and true shepherds who are not ashamed of the Gospel which is power unto salvation; and endow all our members with the assurance of the Resurrection faith, that as You raised our Lord, so also by Your power You will raise us. Grant that all believers throughout the world this day, may find the fullness of Your grace and peace. Help all to be faithful unto death, that they will receive the crown of life.

Especially we ask You to bestow Your mercy and strength on the sick, the suffering, the sorrowing, and the lonely. Be our refuge and fortress.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

By Your Holy Spirit make us, heavenly Father, perfect in every good work to do Your will. Work in us that which is well pleasing in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever.

© Amen.

EASTER

Chant Tone



Introit

I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed glo | riously;*

The horse and his rider He has thrown in | to the sea.

The Lord is my strength | and my song,*
He has become my sal — vation;

Your right hand, O Lord, glori | ous in power,*

Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the | enemy.

You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;*

You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho | ly abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on Your own — mountain,*

The place, O Lord, which You have made for | Your abode,

The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have es — tablished.*

The Lord will reign forever and — ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed glo | riously;*

The horse and his rider He has thrown in | to the sea.

(Antiphon, Exodus 15:1b;
Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18)

Collect of the Day

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.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,
You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;*
you have put all things un | der His feet.

(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O God of life and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Your abundant grace, You have begotten us again to a new and living assurance by the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. You have transformed the night of doubt and sorrow into the new and eternal day of joy and gladness. You have brought life and immortality to light by the glad tidings that Christ is risen. For this, O Lord, we give You thanks. O God, we praise You that through Him You removed from us death's sting. Fill our hearts with the joy of His Resurrection, and let us live only for Jesus. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE HAVE COME TO THE PREMIERE EVENT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH; EASTER! The event of Easter is so significant that the church changed the day of worship. The event of Jesus coming out of the tomb, fulfilled the prophecy of "The Day of the Lord," from the Old Testament. The event of Easter is so completely important that we often refer to Sunday as, the Day of the Lord out of respect for Christ's accomplishment of our salvation. If you joined us today because you do not have a church home, we invite you to join with us every Sunday as we celebrate the Day of the Lord, on the day of the new Sabbath for the new Earth.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Christ Is Risen

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Exodus:15:1b;) Psalm 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18 Exodus 15:1-18 is the song Moses sang after the Egyptian army was drowned in the Red Sea. A complete victory had been accomplished by God for His chosen people. The connection to the other lessons is in the complete victory accomplished by God over sin, death and Satan, accomplished in the blood of Jesus.

COLLECT

After the difficult time between Good Friday and this Easter Sunday morning, we are in wonder of the work accomplished for us on this day. We ask that we are made a part of our Lord's resurrection and that it would be kept real in our life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 65:17-25

This lesson was moved from the Last Sunday of the Church Year. The chosen people, the Hebrew nation, had failed in their efforts to be faithful to God. As a result, God had allowed them to be treated the same as any other nation (without His protected status.) They built houses and others took them away, etc. God promised a time when the nation would again, see their glory. The final verses are the Old Testament continuation of the promise of the coming Messiah The serpent eating dust takes us back to Genesis and the serpent (Satan) being cursed by the One promised. The new Heaven and new Earth was fulfilled in Jesus' Resurrection.

GRADUAL—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This is quite the compilation of Scripture. It is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 15:19-26

A problem had arisen in the Corinth congregations. They taught that there is no resurrection from the dead. The teaching did not dispute Christ's Resurrection, they simply claimed there is no general resurrection of all flesh. Paul went to great lengths to explain the death and Resurrection of Jesus, and great lengths to establish that Christ is the "first fruits" of those who have, "fallen asleep" in the Lord. There is a fine line to walk between the Resurrection of Jesus and the end of the world. It is the same line we walk between our Baptism, death when we enter into Heaven without our bodies and the end of the world when we will all be resurrected and receive our bodies for eternity in Heaven.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 24:1-12

Luke gave a unique point of view to the events of the Resurrection of Jesus. As always, he began with the time cues, "first day of the week", and "at