

were the first to witness the Resurrection, and in that witness they were allowed to proclaim to the women the wonder of the that Jesus was alive. Verses 7 and 10 fulfill the prophecy of Jesus and prepared them for His Ascension 40 days later. Three days passed (it was probably on the order of 36 to 38 hours and spanned the 3 days.) He rose on the first day of the week, which reestablished the first day of the creation of the cosmos by God as the "beginning." The women were the first to be allowed to enjoy the Resurrection because Eve was the first to eat the forbidden fruit. Jesus met the women on the way (more at John 20:11ff) to prove that point and to tell them to go tell the men. They have to constantly be told not to be afraid because they were confronting events they had forgotten Jesus had proclaimed. And...and...and...

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

℟ 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 expectation in 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

The difficulty of our personal darkness that descended on us on Good Friday, has been lifted by the wonder of the Resurrection of our Lord. Now we ask that the Lord's Resurrection would be kept real in our life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 10:34-43

This appears to be an abstract of a much longer sermon (see verse 44.) The whole perspective of this sermon is important to us, because not many of us can prove that we are in the physical line of Abraham and therefore we are Gentiles by birth. Peter proclaimed that the death and Resurrection of Jesus is of benefit to whoever believes in Him.

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

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

EPISTLE LESSON—Colossians 3:1-4

Paul exhorts us to set our hearts on Heaven and take away our affection from this world. To seek heavenly things is to set our affections on them, to love them and let our desires be towards them. We must acquaint ourselves with the heavenly things, esteem them above all other things, and lay out ourselves in preparation for the enjoyment of them. Things on Earth are in opposition to things above. We are dead to present things. We are buried with Christ, and buried to sin in the likeness of His death. Our true life lies in the other world, where, when Christ, who is our life, appears, we shall also appear with Him in glory.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 28:1-10

We have so much information in 10 verses that we could fill this entire space with an exposition of each verse. As proof of Christ's Resurrection, we are given the testimony of the angels and of Jesus. (But: Why weren't the women or the Apostles allowed to see the stone rolled away by the angel? Why was it only the guards? There are so many things God did without witnesses (the creation of the world, the incarnation of Jesus) that we can only accede to His wisdom.) The angels witnessed the Birth and