

# *Easter Dawn Sunday Service*

## **April 12, 2020**

**Easter Theme:** *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!* The Church gathers at dawn and remembers the early hours of the first Easter Sunday. After three days in the tomb, Christ returned to dry our tears and remove our fears. Jesus wants no soul left in mourning over death. He laid down his life, and he took it up again. He removed the sting of death (Second Lesson) by becoming salvation for us (First Lesson), so that we can call God our Father (Gospel).

### **Our Worship Service**

**HYMNS YOU MAY WISH TO SING** CW 149 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”  
CW 152 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” CW 159 “Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb”

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord’s resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

**FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 12:1-6** God was right to be angry with us because of our sin. We deserved to be abandoned. We rightly cried and feared what our sins had done. Such righteous anger called for payment—for atonement. But here is the great reversal of Easter: God’s anger is turned away, and the one who should be our judge, has become our comforter. God himself made atonement. Jesus rose from the dead to prove that payment had been made in full. The time for crying is over—Jesus returned to dry our tears and take away our fears. Our joy bursts forth. This is the day of the Lord. We give thanks and proclaim to the nations what he has done.

**PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 118 CW Page 108 (Or read from the Bible)

**SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-57** Paul reveals a mystery: the dead will be raised! The body corrupted by the ground will be raised incorruptible. Physical death, in fact, is not the end at all! The mystery revealed is the truth that man has been longing to hear since the Garden: the dead will live. Jesus Christ is the resurrection-firstfruits from the harvest field of humanity, and that means many more will follow. Suddenly, the tomb is not a place of fear, but a place of hope. Jesus comes even to the graveside to dry our tears and remove our fears. The debt of sin is paid.. So where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

**VERSE OF THE DAY** Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Alleluia. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

**THE GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1-18** In the early morning hours, the women made their way to the tomb, desiring to do one last service for their master. Then the angels and the empty tomb proclaimed Jesus risen from death in victory. Peter and John raced to the tomb, but did not fully understand. Mary stayed behind at the tomb, alone with her tears and fears. What love we see in our Savior’s appearance to Mary! Though risen and glorious, he does not forget a single soul, but comes to Mary to dry her tears and take away her fears. Jesus lives to quiet our fears and dry our tears and to take us to himself in heaven!

**Confession of Faith** Apostles’ Creed, CW Page 19

**Sermon** (If you have an internet connection, you may connect to a service at Web Sites Listed Below.)

**The Lord’s Prayer** CW Page 20

**Benediction** 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 Give You Peace.