



ABOUT THE PROPERs

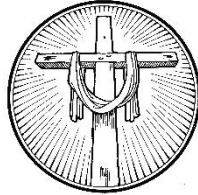
An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day

April 20, 2025



“Because He Lives”

Death Has Lost Its Sting

Death *can* sting in many ways. It *can* sting by casting a shadow over every moment of life. It *can* sting by separating loved ones. It *can* sting by instilling fear of what follows life in this world. Yes, death *can* sting in many ways. Note that word *can*. Because Jesus lives, death has lost its sting for those who put their faith in the living Lord. Because he lives, we have all the proof we need that God accepted Jesus’ death as the complete and final payment for all our sin. Those who are in Christ need no judgment. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. More, Christ’s resurrection is the assurance that our Christian loved ones are not lost. We will see them again in the resurrection. For Christ’s resurrection means we will rise to a world of incomprehensible and unending joy. Death remains unnatural. But Christ has defeated death. So, while death may still cause tears, death does not cause dread. Because he lives, death has lost its sting!

First Reading²

Isaiah 25:6-9

What is the shroud that covers all people and the sheet that covers the nations? Is it not the futility of history and of life itself, all of which ends in death and decay for individuals, for nations, for all institutions and all they build and hold dear? Is it not the fear that the disgrace of our vain existence and the folly of our struggles for life, for honor, for this and that will all be revealed in our death? Looked at apart from Christ we fear the shroud of death. We fear it if we think it ends all, and we fear it even more if we suspect that it doesn’t end all. But Christ is risen! Now life makes sense and so does history. Life and history come from God and he gives and uses them, so that he can prepare a banquet for us, a banquet of life eternal. Fear is not our lot and death is not our goal! He is! As we are his, so he is ours!

Second Reading³

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Draw near to behold the mystery as Paul discusses the risen Christ’s miraculous promise, “Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” Because Christ has been raised, and death has been swallowed up in his victory, the mortal will be clothed with immortality. His victory is ours and we shall be changed for eternity. Death has no sting; the grave has no victory. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Gospel¹

Luke 24:1-12

With the women, we have traveled along with Jesus through his Passion and watched as he was laid in the tomb. But the final trip to the tomb doesn’t reveal the finality *of* death. Rather, it reveals the finality *for* death. What a change! No doubt Peter was confused, wondering what had happened. Do not look for the living among the dead. Death has been swallowed up in victory; Christ has risen just as he said! Death no longer has mastery over us. Easter means that death ends in life!

Psalm of the Day⁴

Psalm 16 B

“This Is the Day”

The Church sings Psalm 16 in services that celebrate the resurrection of the dead. Peter (Acts 2:25-32) and Paul (Acts 13:35) both quote the psalm as a reference to Jesus. Martin Luther said, “The sixteenth psalm is a prophecy of the suffering and resurrection of Christ. It clearly shows that he would cast off the old law with its sacrifices as idolatry, and has chosen believers for a beautiful inheritance.”

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 118:24

“This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” The previous two verses in Psalm 118 refer to Christ as the cornerstone, put in place by the LORD, the builder of the Church. Easter is a day of rejoicing because God has made Jesus, previously rejected by the builders (unbelieving Israel), as the cornerstone of the Church (spiritual Israel) and her faith through his death and resurrection.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day 440 “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

This sturdy Easter hymn was written by Martin Luther and has been sung by the Church for 500 years. The text clearly preaches victory of Christ over death.

Church Year Season ¹ Easter

After forty days of repentance and prayer, the Church bursts forth in jubilant praise at the Resurrection of our Lord. The alleluias and glorias which were muted for Lent ring out again as the Bride of Christ welcomes her Bridegroom back from the dead. Easter is as the pinnacle of the Church Year, the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

Colors & Symbolism White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Traditions & Customs The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter. It was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes sin and death (Ex 12; 1 Cor 6:6-8). The candle is lit for services during Easter to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among us. The candle is also lit for Baptisms and funerals, reminding us of our resurrection to eternal life.

Nain Paraments Easter

Superfronatal: *Alleluia* is taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

¹ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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