



# ABOUT THE PROPERS

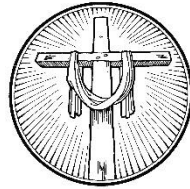
*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Resurrection of Our Lord

### Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024



*Resurrection Reality*

All Will Be Made Alive

Easter teaches us that Christ is the first fruits of those who have died. Just as Christ rose, “so in Christ all will be made alive” (1 Cor 15:22). That changes everything: the way we grieve the death of a Christian loved one, the way we feel when our health fails, the way we look at the purpose of life right now. Let us rejoice in this resurrection reality: All those who believe in Jesus and are declared righteous by grace and through faith and will be made alive!

### The Propers

*The Propers are those portions of the service that change (i.e. are “proper” to) each Sunday or season of the church year. The Propers differ from the Ordinary (from the Latin ordo, which means “regular order”) portions of the liturgy, which do not change (e.g. the Lord’s Prayer). The Propers offer the variety to the worship service and emphasize particular worship themes throughout the liturgical calendar.*

#### First Reading

Job 19:23-27

By faith Job knew that because the redeemer lives, even though Job would die and his body would decay, he would see his God with his own eyes in the resurrection.

#### Second Reading<sup>2</sup>

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If death was all that we had to look forward to, then we would be miserable indeed. We would have reason to fear that our whole life was in vain and the endurance of every struggle or temptation a wasted effort. If death ends all, why struggle, why sacrifice, why endure opposition and persecution especially from our own flesh in its fight with sins and temptations? But death does not end all. Death, feared by all, has now fallen victim to Christ in his resurrection; he has conquered it *for us!* We will rise. We will see him as he is. We will spend eternity not in dust but in adoration. That’s why he came. That’s why he died. That’s why we are so glad on this most holy day of days.

#### Gospel<sup>2</sup>

Mark 16:1-8

What were the women afraid of? It is interesting to note that they have triumphed over all kinds of fears at the beginning of the gospel lesson, but they are overcome by fear at its close, at least temporarily. What do we have to be afraid of? They could have feared the soldiers. We may be afraid of people who hate the church or hate us. They could have been afraid of what they did not understand. We could too, for who grasps the invisible power of God or understands death and clearly “sees” what follows it? They could have been afraid of God, calling to mind their own earlier sins and doubts. We surely can sympathize with them in that! But the empty tomb and the angel of the resurrection says to all of our fears, Don’t be afraid! He is risen, *just as he promised!* Now we can be sure that he will keep all of his promises. For if he kept this one, then nothing will be too hard for him, and nothing will hold him back from his assurance to us of his grace, his protection in life and death, his promise even of our resurrection.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 118 A

"This Is the Day the LORD Has Made." Christ Jesus, who was humbled for a season, has been exalted through his resurrection from the dead. On this most holy day of days we rejoice because we will not die, but live, and proclaim what the Lord has done.

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:24

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Alleluia." 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, who was rejected by the builders (unbelieving Israel), as the cornerstone of the Church (spiritual Israel) 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)

Martin Luther's Easter hymn has been sung by the Church for 500 years. The text clearly preaches victory of Christ over death.

## 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.

## Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

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

Easter: 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.

## Nain Paraments

Easter

Superfrontal: *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).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year A". Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year B". Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year C". Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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