Opening Hymn
457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCxYQm17aqQ

1 Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!
   Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
   Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
   Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
   Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
   Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
   Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

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Stand
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious 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 holy 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 established.
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 beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all
let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Amen.

This Is the Feast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vIH3k4CgeQ

C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray.
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.

C Amen.
Sit

First Reading  Acts 10:34–43

34 Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Epistle  Colossians 3:1–4

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse  LSB 156

C Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel  Matthew 28:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.
Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Sermon Hymn

466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmWgMeD5cmg

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.
   Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
   For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
   Even from death, dispelling its gloom. Refrain

ref Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
   Death’s fearful sting He has come to destroy.
   Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
   Jesus is living, alleluia!

2 For three long days the grave did its worst
   Until its strength by God was dispersed.
   He who gives life did death undergo;
   And in its conquest His might did show. Refrain

3 The angel said to them, “Do not fear!
   You look for Jesus who is not here.
   See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
   Only the grave cloths are lying there.” Refrain

4 “Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave;
   He has arisen this world to save.
   Jesus’ redeeming labors are done;
   Even the battle with sin is won.” Refrain

5 Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
   Alleluia, to Him praises be.
   Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
   He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. Refrain

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Sit

Sermon

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Throughout Lent, our sermon theme has been the 10 commandments, counted down from number 10 to number 1. What could be more fitting? God, who created all things, who sent His Son, Jesus to be our Savior, who sent His Holy Spirit to the Church of all times, who saved the people of Israel from the Egyptians, who saves us from all our sins, commands “You shall have no other gods”. As Luther explains, “You should fear, love, and trust in God above all things”. Luther also explains that a god is something that one looks to for every good thing and for help in time of need.

In this morning’s gospel reading, the Marys head to the tomb in the dark. In the darkness just before dawn. As the day dawns, they expect to see what everyone who has lost a loved one sees, a grave. We’re not told, so we can only guess, why they have come. Perhaps to care for Him; to properly prepare His body for burial. There wasn’t time to do so before. Or perhaps to be close to Jesus. To weep and mourn. To consider what they have seen and heard. A prophet, one who teaches with authority. A prophet who performs miracles, giving sight to the blind, making the lame walk, the dumb speak, bringing Lazarus back from the dead. A perfect man killed as a murderer, as an enemy of the state, as an enemy of their own people and their own religion. He’s been dead three days, three days as they counted days – part of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Three days to prove that he is truly dead. His promise to rise from the dead after three days has faded from their memories. His death must have seemed so depressing, so final.

Then, just as the earth quaked as Jesus died on the cross, another earthquake signals the beginning of something new. The earth quakes as the angel appears at the grave and moves the stone away from the opening, revealing the empty tomb. Once again, an angel of the Lord announces God’s act of salvation. First at Jesus’s coming as a babe in Bethlehem and now as the risen Savior. In both cases, an angel announces the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of the promise of a savior in Genesis 3:16 and the promise of Jesus’s resurrection. God keeps His word! God has overcome Adam and Eve’s sin. God has conquered sin, death and the devil.

What a jumble of emotions the Marys experienced. Joyfully traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover. The triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The shock and sadness of Jesus’s arrest, judgement and crucifixion. The fear of the Jews - would the Jews come after them too? What emotion would seeing an angel in all his glory bring? Or the empty tomb? Jesus has arisen. Imagine everything going on in their heads and hearts as they hurried back to the disciples. And then the Marys meet Jesus. The man Jesus. They worship and touch Him, his feet, His physical body, risen from the dead.

Jesus has once again kept His promise. He has risen! (he is risen indeed, Alleluia) as He promised. And at the Last Supper, Jesus makes the disciples another promise, to go before them. To go before them to Galilee. Jesus makes them apostles, those sent by sending them to Galilee and from Galilee he sends them to all nations to make disciples, a commission carried on by the church today.

Just as God had displayed his power to save the people of Israel when God gave Moses the 10 commandments, so too we consider the first commandment in light of our redemption. God has shown Jesus’s mastery over death and the devil by conquering death and raising Jesus from the dead. There is only one true God. One God of power who could set the people of Israel free from the oppression of the Egyptians. One God of power who raised Jesus from the dead. One God in three persons, God the Father, Creator. God the Son, Jesus, Redeemer. God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier. As we confess in the Athanasian Creed “we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal.

And yet, this world is full of other gods, other things to whom one looks for all good things and for help in times of need. For the people of Israel, the Golden Calf quickly became a god to be worshipped during the forty days Moses was with God receiving the 10 commandments. The Baals and the Asherahs were other gods that the people of Canaan worshiped, gods that supplanted the true God in the hearts of the people of Israel. Each nation had their own gods, and often many gods, one for each aspect of life. A sun god, a moon god, a god of fertility, and so on.
Today, in the world, there are many gods. Some worship human reason and science as the answer to all of mankind’s problems. Others are their own god, the one to whom they look for all good things and for help in times of need and to determine what is right or wrong for themselves. Still others trust in the government or in their wealth and influence for all good things and in time of need.

Yet the First Commandment says “You shall have no other gods”. As your creator and sustainer, God knows that only He can provide for all your needs of body and soul, for this life and for eternity. Your own efforts can only fall short. No matter how hard you try, you can’t be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. You’ve failed in some point of the law. And by failing in any point of the law, you have failed the whole law. All of Luther’s explanations of the commandments begin “you should fear and love God”, connecting all the commandments to the first.

God knew before He created that you would sin and you would need a Savior. A savior who would atone for your sins, your violations of the Law, your sins of having other gods, of placing created things ahead of God himself. God, who provides for all your needs, sent Jesus to take on human flesh, to live a perfect life, to take your sins to the cross and lay down His life to reconcile God to you. And having laid down His life for your salvation, God raised Him from the dead, conquering sin and death. By Jesus’s death and resurrection, you receive the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Because of Jesus’s death and resurrection, you are called to be God’s child, an heir of His heavenly kingdom, all showing that indeed, God loves you and provides for you as only He can, giving you all that you need for this life and for all eternity.

And so, we are to have no other gods. We are to serve our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in joy, loving God with all our hearts, and minds and souls and our neighbor as ourselves. And serving Him, we joyfully proclaim “He is risen!”. “He is risen indeed, alleluia”. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Rejoicing in the resurrection of our Lord and sharing in His peace, let us pray to the Lord on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.

Brief silence

O risen Savior, set free our tongues to confess Your resurrection before a world still captive to sin and death. Give us courage to go to every place and to speak in every language the salvation won for us upon the cross and the hope granted to us of life that death cannot overcome. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O risen Savior, make us to burn with the fire of Your love, that we may love You above all things and love our neighbors as ourselves. Deliver us from fear and relieve the anxiety of our hearts, that we may live out fully the hope planted within us and the new lives we received in the waters of our Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O risen Savior, anoint the words of those who preach to us Your Gospel, and open our ears to hear with faith all that He has done to save us. Raise up many who will serve You in the various callings of Your Church and who will serve us in Your name with Your Word and gifts. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O risen Savior, hear us on behalf of Donald, our president; JB, our governor; the Congress of the United States; and all state and local elected officials. Guide them according to Your Word, that their labors for our nation’s health and welfare may not be in vain, nor forgetful of the vulnerable, aging and unemployed. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O risen Savior, across our nation so many are imprisoned. Bless all prison workers, that they may be humane and serve with integrity. Bless those incarcerated with hope for the future and amendment of life, help them to serve their sentences with patience and trust in You, and bless their families who love them. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O risen Savior, hear us on behalf of those who cry to You in any need, especially the sick including those in our ongoing personal prayers, the suffering, the disabled, the wounded in spirit, those who suffer mental illness and those in their last days on earth. Give them grace according to their need and sustain them in their afflictions to the day when their sufferings will be exchanged for glory in the life to come. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
O risen Savior, accept the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving from our lips and the tithes and offerings we bring this day. Increase in the hearts of Your people delight in Your mercy, gratitude for all Your benefits, and eagerness to support the mission of Your Church in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. All praise to You, dear Father in heaven, for You have opened up to us the way to eternal life in the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We give You thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith and now rest from their labors. Keep us in that same faith, and embolden us by Your resurrection to be fearless in the face of disease, chaos, loneliness and every sorrow of this world. Give us, with Job, the solemn expectation to cheer us: our Redeemer lives, and we, too, shall be resurrected and glorified to live with Him in His eternal Kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our resurrected Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiKsM_o490Q

1 Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!
   Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
   Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
   At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
   Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
   Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
   Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
   God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
   When contending death and life, Alleluia!
   Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
   All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
   Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
   Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

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Acknowledgments

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