

The image is a composite graphic for an Easter service. It features a dark, cavernous interior, likely a tomb, with rough, textured rock walls. A large, irregular opening in the rock provides a view of the outside world. Outside, a bright sunrise or sunset fills the sky with warm, golden light and soft clouds. In the distance, a silhouette of a cross stands on a hill. The foreground inside the tomb shows some dry, grass-like plants growing near the entrance. The overall mood is one of hope and new beginnings.

GUIDED *to the* CROSS

Easter Sunday 9:30 Worship
GUIDED TO NEW LIFE

9:30 a.m. – Service of the Word and Sacrament

Order of Service

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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The Resurrection of Our Lord

March 31, 2024

In this service for Easter Sunday, we celebrate that the crucified Christ is raised from the dead to new life. In word and song, we contemplate how to live a new life guided by the risen Christ.

Prelude

"Fanfare on 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'"

*arr. by P. Lehenbauer
Bryan Edgett, trumpet*

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
(vs. 1, 3-4)

525

Invocation & Opening Sentences

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The apostle Paul writes, "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

People: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Pastor: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

People: For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Pastor: When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

People: 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

Pastor: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

People: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession & Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, in Christ Jesus we have been raised to new life, but we often turn back to our old ways. We follow our own selfish desires instead of walking in the

ways of our Lord. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of gladly hearing Your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Lead us by Your Spirit to walk in newness of life.

(Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.)

Pastor: Jesus suffered and died on the cross to take away our sins. He was raised in triumph over death. In Him we have forgiveness and life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Lord Jesus, set Your cross before us and lead us to walk in newness of life.

Anthem

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

*arr. by Mary McDonald
offered by the Sanctuary Choir*

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:1-4 (NIV)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"In Christ Alone"

by K. Getty and S. Townend

Sermon

“Guided to the Cross: Guided to New Life”

Pastor Dave Bass

To watch and listen to last week’s sermon online at www.smlcs.org,
click on “Church” and “Watch the Live Stream.”

Apostles’ Creed

inside back cover of hymnal

Offering

Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Holy Communion

Distribution Songs

“Behold the Lamb”

see insert

“The Wonderful Cross”

*by Watts, Mason, Walt,
Tomlin and Reeves*

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near
and bless Your name.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an off’ring far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Refrain:

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I
may truly live.

Refrain x2

Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

“Were You There”

456

Blessing

Closing Song

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

457

Postlude

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

arr. by Wilbur Held

Have a blessed Easter!