



Sunrise Service

SUNRISE SERVICE

MARCH 31, 2024

7:30 am - Ringing of the bells

Welcome – Gracie Diebel

Good morning, Happy Easter, and welcome all to St. John's Sunrise Service. We are so happy to be celebrating our Lord's victory with you this morning. Just as Jesus experienced dark to light times from the garden to the empty tomb, so shall we go from dark to light in our service today. As we begin with our opening song, please keep your candles lit during our dark times. When we reach the empty tomb this morning, then we will turn on all the lights in full celebration. So please stand and join me in singing.

Please stand

Opening song –

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
where they laid his breathless clay:
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61G3rOjs9vs>

Prayer – Lane Moritz

Thank you, Jesus, for everything you went through in the Garden of Gethsemane. I know it wasn't easy, but you did it because you love us so much. Thank you for caring about us in such a big way. I'm grateful for the hard times you faced, for carrying the weight of our mistakes, and for later paying the price for them. Your love is amazing, and I appreciate all the sacrifices you made for us. Thank you, Jesus, for showing us what true love and strength look like. Help me remember your example and strive to be a better person every day. Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: John 19: 1-16, read by Kinley Nessel

Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Mini-Message – Morgan Zengerle

Song -

“Jesus Christ, I Think Upon Your Sacrifice”

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice
You became nothing, poured out to death
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life
And I'm in that place once again
I'm in that place once again

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice
You became nothing, poured out to death
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life
And I'm in that place once again
I'm in that place once again

And once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You
Once again I pour out my life

Now You are exalted to the highest place
King of the heavens
Where one day I'll bow
But for now I marvel at this saving grace
And I'm full of praise once again
I'm full of praise once again

And once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You
Once again I pour out my life, yeah

And once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You
Once again I pour out my life

Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my Friend
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my Friend
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my Friend

I'm humbled by Your love
For I find so much mercy, so much grace
How can it, how can it, how can it, how can it be?
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my Friend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M6uaAWjkdo>

Prayer – Gracie Diebel

Dear Jesus, I come before you to ask for help. Please fill my heart with faith, and help me have hope and love deeply. Thinking about your sacrifice is humbling, and we thank you for the cross. I'm sorry for the wrong things I have done and I promise to do better. Amen

Second Reading – Luke 23: 32-49, read by Lane Moritz

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Mini-Message – Shelby Newman

Song -

“At the Cross”

Hillsong Worship

Oh Lord You've searched me
You know my way
Even when I fail you
I know You love me

Your holy presence
Surrounded me
In every season
I know You love me
I know You love me
At the cross I bow my knees
Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this

You have overcome the grave
Glory fills the highest place
What can separate me now

You go before me
You shield my way
Your hand upholds me
And I know You love me

At the cross I bow my knee
Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this

You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place
What can separate me now

At the cross I bow my knee
Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this, no

You have overcome the grave
Glory fills the highest place
What can separate me now

You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done
You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done

And when the earth fails
Falls from my eyes
And You stand before me
I know You love me
Oh, I know You love me

At the cross I bow my knee
Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this, no

You have overcome the grave
Glory fills the highest place
What can separate me now

At the cross I bow my knee
Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this, no

You have overcome the grave
Glory fills the highest place
What can separate me now

You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done
You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done

You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done
You tore the veil, You made a way
When You said that it is done

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYnogcfzXrs>

Prayer – Kinley Nessel

Lord, we lift our hearts to you. As dawn breaks, help us remember we are all connected and part of the risen Christ. Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sun rises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful promises in your word. Lord, we lift our prayers to you. When the morning air is cool, let us breathe and remember that you take care of us like the earth. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness, and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you! Amen.

Third Reading – Mark 16: 1-13, read by Gracie Diebel

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

⁹ When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

¹² Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. ¹³ These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

Song -

“Risen”

Shawna Edwards

When darkness veiled the sky the day that Jesus died
In agony upon the bitter cross
They took His body down and laid it in a tomb
His friends believed that everything was lost.
But when the third day came, the darkness turned to light
For Mary heard her name and saw the living Christ.

Risen, To set the captives free
Risen, To ransom you and me
To bind up every broken heart
To conquer death and sin.
Risen, To bring us home again.

And in that barren place the world forever changed
For hope was born when Jesus rose that day
And still His wounded hands reveal the love He has
For every fallen soul He came to save
And He will come again, and one by one we'll rise
To praise His holy name and see the living Christ

Risen, To set the captives free
Risen, To ransom you and me
To bind up every broken heart
To conquer death and sin.
Risen, To bring us home again.

Alleluia, He lives
Alleluia, He is Risen
To set the captives free
Oh, He is risen
To ransom you and me
To bind up every broken heart
To conquer death and sin. Risen
To bring us home again. Risen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCQsK1t9EKY>

Prayer – Gracie Diebel

Dear God, as we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death, help us remember that the celebration goes beyond the dresses and candy, extending well beyond special Sunrise Services and rehearsed music into our everyday lives. Your resurrection is more than a momentary event – it's a daily triumph over fear, our greatest enemy. Your sacrifice conquered fear, and we cling to this, seeking peace and gratitude for the tomorrows ahead. Amen.

Fourth Reading – Matthew 28: 16-20, read by Lane Moritz

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mini-message – Kaleigh Newman

Song -

"Jesus Paid It All"

Newsboys

I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
(He washed away)

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all (He paid it all)
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
(Oh, He washed, yeah
He washed it white as snow, oh)

Oh, Praise the One who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
Oh, Praise the One who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
Oh, Praise the One who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hs05AtP2wd8>

Closing – Gracie Diebel

Thank you for this Easter morning filled with joy and celebration. As we gather with glad hearts, we remember the victory Jesus gave us on that old rugged cross. Just like the hymns we sang and the words we shared, we cherish the love and sacrifice of Jesus, who paid our debt and washed our sins away. Let us go forth with glad hearts proclaiming the good news and celebrate together as children of God! Amen! We would like to let you know we have a free will donation plate in the narthex and we invite everyone to join us for a pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall. So we are ready to feast when we arrive, please join me in a table prayer. God and Lord of Life, You who call forth from the darkness of death all those who love You, we rejoice, on this Easter Sunday, in the resurrection from the dead of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Bless our home and this table with Your bright blessing of peace and life. Amen.

Song -

“Old Rugged Cross”

Played on the piano by Kaleigh Newman

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share

And I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Postlude