

SAVIOR
SERVANT
FRIEND

SERVICE FOR
EASTER SUNDAY



REDEEMER

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SERVICES FOR EASTER SUNDAY
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SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR EASTER SUNDAY ABOUT THE SERVICE

Holy Week provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, and Friend, Jesus. It is a time to marvel at how our Lord delivered us from sin, death and the devil through his suffering, death and resurrection. The Easter Sunday service dwells on celebrating that Jesus is our Redeemer, who frees us to live a new life.

For each service, the series contains: a complete order of service • sermon • children's sermon • prayers • music for the accompanist

ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:
www.creativecommunications.com.

A Complete Series for the Weeks of Lent Is Available:

Those who desire may supplement these services with other services for all of Lent. They are available as a kit and include all the Leader's Guide features described above.

All six services digital format with hard copies • Code **SSFL**

All six services digital format only • Code **SSFLDD**

All six services sermons only • Code **SSFADD**

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COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP
LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-illustration/easter-jesus-christ-rose-dead-sunday-2267556127](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-illustration/easter-jesus-christ-rose-dead-sunday-2267556127)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins.

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
John 15:15

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Our friend Jesus lives!

C **To forgive our sins and heal our wounds!**

P Our friend Jesus lives!

C **To listen to our prayers and encourage us!**

P Our friend Jesus lives!

C **To protect us from all harm and bring us comfort!**

P Our friend Jesus lives!

C **To be our King, Servant and Savior!**

P Our friend Jesus lives!

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Duke Street LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save,
He lives all-glorious in the sky; he lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above,
He lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye,
He lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest and King.

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Jesus has left the tomb empty to empty sin of its power. Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb on that first Easter morning, O Holy Spirit, roll away the stones from our hearts. Enable us to confess our sins, repent of them and receive Christ's forgiveness.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P O Lord, we bring before you all of our sins—what we have said and done, what we have failed to say and do.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P O Lord, we bring before you all of our sins—the pride and arrogance, the gossip and slander, the hurtful thoughts and words.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P O Lord, we bring before you all of our sins—the lust and disobedience, the selfishness and rebellion, the greed and gluttony.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

P Your Redeemer lives! He lives, he lives, who once was dead. Your Redeemer and friend, Christ Jesus, forgives you of all of your sins. Just as the tomb was left empty, Jesus has emptied sin of its power over you, and he has set you free. Know that your Redeemer lives, and know that your Redeemer declares to you: Your sins are forgiven!

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Lord Jesus, what a Redeemer you are! You free us to live a new life as your holy and redeemed people. By the very same power that overcame the grave and left the tomb empty, empower us to live with great hope, joy, celebration and peace. Place in our mouths the great Good News that our Redeemer lives. We pray in your name, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- The **Children’s Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—
and that he had said these things to her.” (John 20:18)*

- Ⓟ Today is a good...a great...a wonderful...a joyful...a stupendous day of celebration! Today, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the great Good News that Jesus has left the tomb empty and that our Redeemer lives. The friends of Jesus have been celebrating this day ever since it first happened.

On that very first Easter Sunday, the friends of Jesus did not immediately understand what had happened. There was more confusion than there was celebration. It took the friends of Jesus some time to piece together all that had happened. We could sort of think of it like a game of I Spy. Have you ever played that game? It is where you hear some clues and then you have to guess what it is that the person is talking about. Let’s try an Easter version of I Spy right now.

So, on that very first Easter morning, a friend of Jesus named Mary went to the tomb of Jesus. But she spied something strange: The stone had been taken away. Hmmm. What could that mean? After that, some other friends of Jesus—Peter and John—ran to the tomb, and they spied burial cloths folded up and sitting there in the tomb. Hmmm. What could that mean? Next, Mary spied two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been. Hmmm. What could that mean?

After spying all of those things—a stone rolled away from the tomb, burial cloths folded up, two angels sitting where the body of Jesus had been—the friends of Jesus still were a little confused about what had happened. Finally, Mary spied something that made it all clear: “She turned around and saw Jesus standing... Jesus said to her, ‘Mary’” (John 20:14, 16). Mary spied with her little eye something wonderful and amazing: the Risen Jesus!

After seeing Jesus, Mary went to tell the others what she had seen. She said, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18). What wonderful news this was! We are gathered together today to celebrate this wonderful news. Because Jesus lives, we have life in him. Jesus is our friend and our Redeemer. He lives, he lives! And we live through him!

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Job 19:23-27a, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

- Ⓟ Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

- The **Epistle Reading**, Galatians 3:13-14, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 20:1-18, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Easter Hymn 77 77 and alleluias, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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!

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!

But the pain which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ I know (blank). There are endless ways that you could fill in that blank. The philosopher Socrates completed that sentence by saying, “I know that I know nothing.” Sherlock Holmes completed that sentence by saying, “I know what is good when I see it.” The prophet Jeremiah, speaking on behalf of God, said, “I know the plans that I have for you” (Jeremiah 29:11).

On that first Easter morning, the friends of Jesus would have completed that sentence by saying: “I know that something is up!” On that first Easter morning, the friends of Jesus knew that something was up. We hear about this in our Gospel reading from John 20: “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark” (John 20:1). Three days before this, Mary Magdalene had been at the cross, watching as Jesus suffered and died: “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene” (John 19:25). After witnessing the death of Jesus on the cross, Mary and other women went and were witnesses to the burial of Jesus in a tomb. They saw how his body was laid in the tomb and how a rock closed the tomb shut.

But now, on the third day, we hear this: “And [she] saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb” (John 20:1). This is not how she last saw it. Something was up. But what? A robbery—someone stole the body? An act of desecration—someone took the body of Jesus to further mock him and his followers? Mary didn’t know what this open tomb could mean, so she did the only thing that made sense: “She ran” (John 20:2). What was Mary thinking while she ran? We don’t know. She might have been thinking of where she could find Peter and John. She might have been thinking about who stole the body of Jesus or rolled away the stone. She just knew that something was up.

Mary went to Simon Peter and John to let them know that something was up: “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” (John 20:2) So what did Peter do? He went running! Peter ran to the tomb. Why? We don’t really know. But he knew something was up.

Perhaps the last interactions that Peter had with Jesus might shed some light on why Peter was running to the tomb. Do you remember the last interaction that Peter had with Jesus? Jesus had been arrested, and he was in the high priest’s house. There was a sham trial going on, and Peter was outside in a courtyard by a fire. A servant girl saw Peter and said that he had been with Jesus. And Peter said, “Woman, I do not know him” (Luke 22:57). Peter denied Jesus three times. Perhaps Peter ran to the tomb in fear. Maybe he was afraid that they had taken the body of Jesus. Maybe Peter ran because of a different kind of fear: What if Jesus is alive, and I’m in big trouble? What if Jesus is risen, and he’s coming to get me for my betrayal?

Or Peter could be running for a different reason. Maybe while he was running, he remembered what Jesus had said: “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised” (Luke 9:22). Maybe a lightbulb went on for Peter as he ran—thinking, “Could his words have been true?”

Yet, it wasn’t only Peter running to the tomb that Easter morning. So was John, the “beloved disciple.” Like Mary and Peter, John knew that something was up. We hear this: “So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first” (John 20:3-4).

John got to the tomb first, but Peter went in first. He found the burial cloths sitting in the tomb. John then walked in, and we hear this: “He saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead” (John 20:8-9). John sees the empty tomb, sees the burial cloths. He believes, but doesn’t understand. He knows that something is up, but what exactly, he does not know. What could this all mean? Could it be that when Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10), he meant that he would give life by overcoming death?

After Peter and John left the tomb, Mary remained. She wept outside the tomb and eventually mustered the courage to look inside. There she saw two angels who asked her why she was crying. She told them that she did not know where they had put Jesus. Then we hear this: “She turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher)” (John 20:14-16).