

Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>“The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

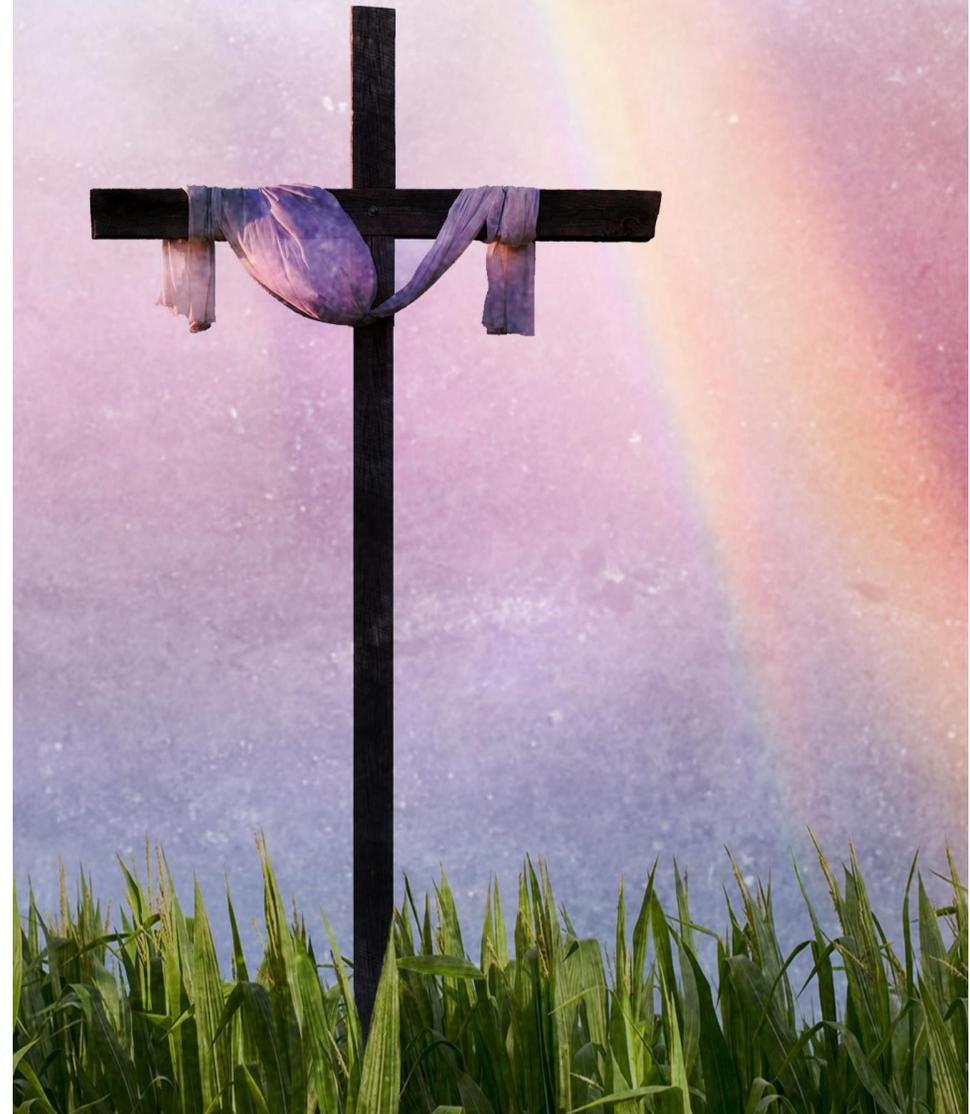
<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

# *He is Risen!*

*Hanover Church of the Brethren*

*Easter Sunrise Service*

*April 4, 2021*





# Easter Sunrise Service

April 4, 2021

7:00 AM

## WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

**All: The birds are singing tunes of joy in the trees surrounding the graves. The flower buds are bursting in colors vibrant around each stone.**

Leader: We've come to visit the grave of a friend, but "he is not here."

**All: The Sun is rising in the East; the shadowed grays turn bright! The Son is risen in our Hearts; darkness and death end in defeat.**

Leader: Now we understand what Christ said, what God did.

**All: Now we can proclaim, CHRIST IS RISEN, HALLELUJAH!**

### GATHERING PRAYER

God of the empty tomb, we come to this joyful Easterfest with eyes focused on the lilies; guide our timid eyes to the cross. Remind us again of the tomb; filled and now empty. Remind us again of Mary's tears; of sorrow and now joy. Remind us again of Peter's words; denial and now telling. God of the empty tomb, grant us the grace to accept both the cost and the joy of following You. Amen.

### HYMN "Christ The Lord is Risen Today"

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today! Alleluia! Sons of men and angles say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia! Sing, Ye heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!
2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting. Alleluia! Dying once, He all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12 (on back)  
EASTER SUNRISE LITANY (insert)

### HYMN "Because He Lives"

1. God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

#### Refrain:

Because He Lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

3. And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain; And then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the light of glory and I'll know He reigns. (refrain)

### BENEDICTION

All praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, the God of all consolation. Do not rely on yourselves alone, but put your trust in Him. For the God who can raise the dead to live again will also deliver you!

## EASTER SUNRISE LITANY

**Leader:** The dawn of each day calls us to welcome whatever is before us but today, Easter morning, we are especially excited to welcome this day's light breaking through. Just as the sunrise has many colors within, so does this "Resurrection Day" bring new meaning to our lives through colors of spring flowers that bring HOPE!

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 1:** Our first color, green, represents God's creation as we see the new life pushing out of the ground. God spoke the world into being in the book of Genesis. From Genesis 1:11: **"Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation; seed bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seeds in it according to its kind.'"**

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 2:** Blue is the color reminding us of the sadness in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. It also reminds us of the sadness of Jesus' followers when they knew he would be crucified. From Luke 23:23, **"But with loud shouts they demanded that he be crucified and their loud shouts prevailed... and they led him away."** Our blue flower is necessary to complete the spectrum of the colors of God's world...there will be sadness but joy comes in the morning!

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 1:** Orange reminds us of the spices that were brought by the women on that first Easter morning to anoint the body. Think of all the spices and the array of colors but the dominant colors would be oranges and browns. The smell of the spices—the aroma—that was supposed to take away the "putrid" smell of death was brought to the tomb that first Easter morning. From Luke 24:1, **"On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb."** We come this morning to remember the tomb and Christ's resurrection which we celebrate this day. No tomb could hold Christ in death's grip!

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 2:** Violet reminds us of the robe that was placed on Jesus by the Roman soldiers during his mockery of a trial. The robe that represents Kingship and Jesus was a king, King Jesus! He came to earth to suffer and die, taking our sins to the cross with him. From Luke 23:11, **"Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate."** Today we would probably still dress Jesus in royal robes, because he has become the king of our lives. He took our sins to the cross. Thank you, King Jesus.

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 1:** Red is the color of the blood that was shed for you and me on the cross of Calvary. Think about that sacrifice. With Jesus coming to earth, the animal sacrifices at the temple were no longer. Christ was our sin atonement. He was the sacrifice for all our sins. He died to save us! From Luke 23:44-46, **"It was now about the sixth hour and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last."**

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 2:** White represents the color of the strips of linen in which Christ's body was wrapped after it was taken down from the cross. White also represents the purity of Christ and the armies of heaven dressed in white linen. From Revelation 19:14, **"The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean."** The hope given to us of God's kingdom in heaven and the "New Jerusalem."

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*

**Reader 1:** Yellow represents the sun as it rises this day. The sunshine reminds us of each new day of God's light—the SONSHINE of his love. The Risen Christ!

*People: Thanks be to God! Christ is Risen!*