

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed. Alleluia!)



**This Easter Sunday, we sing out alleluias of praise for our Lord,
whose death has conquered death
and whose life brings the promise of eternal life!**

**Easter Service—Sunday, 5 April, 10:00 am
(and every Sunday of the year at 10:00,
we celebrate our Lord's resurrection victory!**

† Easter: Mission Accomplished †

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is the time in the church year when we celebrate the great "mission accomplished" of our Lord's resurrection victory. Easter is the day of days on which we sing out alleluias of praise for our Lord, whose death has conquered death and whose life brings the promise of eternal life.

Christ our Lord took the world's sins on His beaten, bloodied, and bruised shoulders while hanging on the cross. He was laid in a tomb, dead, and buried. He died—for us. True God of God and Light from Light, He lay for three days in death's strong bands precisely because of our offenses and sin. There is no place in life that we will be where He has not already been. Not even the grave. He has been there first—for us.

One day too we will enter the grave, but we do so knowing that He has accomplished His mission of saving the entire world from the sting of death, the eternal punishment our sin deserves. His righteousness is given to us as a gift, imputed to us by God's grace. We were buried with Him by Baptism into His death, and so we will rise again as He did to new and eternal life on the last day.

As Christ arose on Easter morning, God was declaring the sins of the world forgiven. Out of suffering and death, God brought life and immortality to light through Jesus Christ. Because He lives, we too shall live. Life will have its times of sadness, pain, difficulty, and heartache. It would be wrong for Christians to think that they are somehow immune to life's hardships. As long as we are here—in this body, in this life—we will have times of trouble. But our Lord has accomplished His mission.

We live in the righteousness that is ours as a free gift because of our Lord's life and resurrection. We are privileged now to be His witnesses and to reach out in love with the precious Good News of the great "mission accomplished" to friends, family, and all those whom God has placed around us.

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