

*in view of*

G O D ' S  
M E R C Y



E A S T E R S U N D A Y :  
*Mercy in the Open Tomb*

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# G O D ' S M E R C Y

E A S T E R S U N D A Y :

## *Mercy in the Open Tomb*

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ABOUT THIS SERVICE

On Easter we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the resurrection of his Son, Jesus. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during the Easter season, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in his post-resurrection appearances. This service by theology professor David Peter focuses our attention on the joyful meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in the risen Christ and the open tomb.

This kit contains: an order of service • sermon • children's message • 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](http://www.creativecommunications.com).

**Blank Bulletins for the Easter Services:**

Code **GMWC** • Easter Sunday  
Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **GMWE** • Easter Sunday  
Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

**A Complete Series for the Weeks of Lent Is Available:**

Those who desire may supplement this service with other services for all of Lent. They are available as a kit and include all the Leader's Guide features described above in paper format. The kit also includes digital files in RTF format with text of services, plus a PDF file of the kit, and PowerPoint documents for use on screens. Kit Code **GMWU**

**Ash Wednesday**

Mercy in Ashes • Joel 2:13

As we are marked with ashes on this day, a reminder to us of our sins, we are reminded, too, of the mercy of our God who lifts us from our ashes to new life in Christ.

**Week 1**

Mercy in Temptation • 1 Corinthians 10:13

In the midst of temptation, our merciful God provides us with a way out through his Son, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin.

**Week 2**

Mercy in Suffering • 1 Peter 2:23

No life is without suffering, but our sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed to us in Jesus by God's great mercy.

**Week 3**

Mercy in Betrayal • 1 Peter 3:11

Though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake.

#### **Week 4**

Mercy in Relationships • Ephesians 4:32

Within the communities God has placed us, we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ has cared for us in his love and mercy.

#### **Week 5**

Mercy in Service • Hebrews 6:10

In response to God's kindness to us in Jesus, we serve in mercy the needs of those around us by Christ's example.

#### **Bulletins for the Lent Series:**

Code **GMW2** • Lent Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **GMWR** • Lent Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

**You can also order the Ash Wednesday service alone:**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

Code **GMW3** • Kit

#### **Holy Week Services to Complete the Series:**

Those who desire may supplement this series with other services that continue the series format and theme. Each is ordered separately and includes all the Worship Kit features described above, except the digital files.

#### **Palm Sunday**

Mercy in Palms • John 12:13

As people wave palm branches to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, we witness Jesus beginning his mission of mercy for all people for the salvation of our souls.

Code **GMWZ** • Kit

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 to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

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.

He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!

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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/he-risen-crucifixion-sunrise-tomb-jesus-1373113949](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-illustration/he-risen-crucifixion-sunrise-tomb-jesus-1373113949)

- 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:

*Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5-6*

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

**P** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Christ is risen!

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

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever!

**C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

**P** Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

**C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

**P** The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

**C Because he lives, we shall live also.**

**P** The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

**C Because he lives, we shall live also.**

**P** The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

**C Because he lives, we shall live also.**

**P** I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

**C Because he lives, we shall live also.**

**P** The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

**P** This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**C Christ has risen from the dead, alleluia!**

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

- The **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 risen 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 pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have 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 ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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

**P** On this day we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the grave. But we also remember why he went to the grave. We acknowledge that our sins were the reason for his suffering and death. And so we confess those sins to God and seek his mercy.

**C** **Most merciful God, it is our sins that put Jesus on the cross. It is because of our transgressions that his lifeless body was placed in the tomb. We confess our guilt and acknowledge the gravity of our sin. For the sake of Christ crucified and risen from the dead, forgive our iniquity and restore us in righteousness. Through the power of his resurrection enable us to walk in newness of life, to the glory of your holy name.**

**P** We cry to you for mercy.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)*

**P** Hear the good news! God's Word declares that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and justifies you, making you holy in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

**C** **Amen.**

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

**P** Gracious Father, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we do so in view of your mercy. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have defeated death and opened to us the way to everlasting life. We thank you that his victory over sin, death and hell is shared with us so that we become more than conquerors through him who loved us. In view of your mercy, form us by your Spirit to live as newborn children of God. We pray these things in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



- The **Closing 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 to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

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.

He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!