

## Texts of the devotions on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

### **MUSIC: EG 99 Christ is arisen** (*Vocal ensemble & organ, Ulrike Jerosch*)

Christ is arisen from all his torture,  
we can rejoice because of this, Christ will be our solace. Kyrieleis.  
If he was not arisen, the world would have perished;  
since he is arisen we praise the Father of Jesus Christ. Kyrieleis.  
Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja!  
We can rejoice because of this, Christ will be our solace. Kyrieleis.

### **Text for the sermon** (Matthew 28, verses 1 – 10)

Jesus Has Risen

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28&version=NIV>

### **MUSIC: EG 103 Praise to God in his throne on high** (*Vocal ensemble & organ, Ulrike Jerosch*)

Praise be to God in his throne on high, / with his only begotten son,  
who has done enough for us. / Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja.

Early in the morning of the third day, / when the rock was still lying near the grave,  
he is arisen without any grievance. / Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja.

The angel spoke, “Don’t be afraid, / because I know well what you miss.  
You are looking for Jesus, but you don’t find him.” Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja.

“He is arisen from death, / has overcome all misery;  
come and see where he has lain.” / Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja.

We pray to you now, Jesus Christ, / because you are arisen from death,  
grant us what is a blessing for us. Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja.

O make our hearts willing, / so that we are freed from sin /  
and will sing to you eternally: / Halleluja, Halleluja, Halleluja.

## **Sermon** (*Pastor Wolfgang Knopp*)

„Dear parishioners, we celebrate Easter – Easter in very strange times. But still the Easter message persists unchanged. We have just heard a text from the Bible – the angel sits there on the rock in front of the empty grave and tells the two women who come to the grave something very important, which for me contains the essence of the Easter message. That Christ is arisen is of course part, a very important part of the Easter message; but what is the impact on us, on humans – for those two women who come to the grave, for myself, living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? The angel says something very important, he says, ‘Do not be afraid’. Don’t be afraid in this world! Shape this life according to the norms laid down by Jesus, and don’t be afraid of anyone or anything, because that God who has overcome death, the greatest challenge to humans by any standard, that God will also be mighty enough to protect you against everything. Do not fear. Well, that does not mean you can do anything you want – jumping from a house that is 90 feet high may not be the best idea to put this phrase to the test. But not fearing other people, or not fearing to fail in your own plans for your life; setting out on roads others do not take – that is what you should not fear. Finding your own way in life, discovering life as a magic box you can open – that is the meaning of ‘Do not be afraid, because I am with you on your way. I have overcome death, and so I will overcome everything you are afraid of. Do not be afraid, go into this world without fear, erect and facing the light, and discover this world in your own way, and do whatever is in your powers and in your dreams.’ That is a message that is immensely liberating. To be able to say that, to be able to be without fear must be something grand, a very high aim which few people may fully achieve. But to listen to the Easter message of the two, the angels who say ‘Do not be afraid, go into this life without fear and shape this life, that is the essence of the Easter message for me.’”

## **MUSIK**

Thomas Riegler: Easter Waltz (*Orgel, Ulrike Jerosch*)

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

Vater unser im Himmel.	Our Father in heaven.
Geheiligt werde dein Name.	Hallowed be your name.
Dein Reich komme.	Your kingdom come.
Dein Wille geschehe,	Your will be done,
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.	as in heaven, so on earth.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.	Give us today our daily bread.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,	And forgive us our sins,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.	as we forgive those who sin against us.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,	Lead us not into temptation,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.	but deliver us from evil.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft	For the kingdom, the power
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.	and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.	Amen.