



Christ
IS
Risen
INDEED

Alleluia!

EASTER 2024



EASTER SUNDAY RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

March 31, 2024

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Holy One, you come to us with power beyond all knowing. You lift all things out of the dust, you breathe love into every cell, you call us into communion with you, and you claim victory over death. Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES *(Luke 24:34)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

ALL: *Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!*

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Prelude in G Major

Bach

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Resurrection Alleluias

Hayes

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder David Greene

One: Beloved, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave!

ALL: *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

One: Sin and death shall reign no more!

ALL: *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

One: Let this place resound with joy!

ALL: *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

One: Let us pray. Living God, the dark night is behind us; the morning light erased all darkness and doubt.

ALL: *Christ Jesus has risen; he's no longer among the dead.*

One: This new morning fills our hearts with joy and hope.

ALL: *Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days, as the Alpha and Omega, the Living One, our immortal Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 245 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

LLAN

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God's resurrecting power. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** *(from Psalm 118)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. You shall not die but live. The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 581** *Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men, a-men.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And, also, with you.

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Lift High the Cross
Chancel Choir

arr. Nichols

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 233** *The Day of Resurrection!*

LANCASHIRE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder David Greene

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18 (pg. 114-115)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Come to Jesus

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Elder David Greene

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Elder David Greene

OFFERTORY

Invention in B-Flat Major

Bach

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder David Greene

SENDING

***HYMN OF PRAISE: 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

***CHARGE + BENEDECTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDECTION

Alleluia!

Hayes

Chancel Choir

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

POSTLUDE

Finale on Hymn to Joy

Callahan

Dr. Terry McRoberts