

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

God of salvation, you have rolled the stone away, and the tomb is empty. Nothing can defeat your love for humankind. The night is passed, and with dawn comes new creation. Christ is risen to bring us new life. We herald with gladness your anointing of Jesus and rejoice in your promised redemption from sin. Hear our shouts of glad adoration as we enter the courtyard of your redeeming grace. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Christ Is Risen!"

Colin Brumby, 2007

Christ is risen! He has burst his bonds in twain;
Christ is risen! Alleluia! Swell the strain!
For our gain he suffered loss by divine decree;
He has died upon the cross but our God is he.
Christ is risen! He has burst his bonds in twain;
Christ is risen! Alleluia! Swell the strain!

***Call to Worship (From Psalm 118)**

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

People: **This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed!**

***Hymn**

"Thine Is the Glory"

#238

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** *(read in unison)*

God of everlasting life, we confess that we continue in the ways of death. You have announced your new creation, but we put our hope in former things. You have opened the door of the tomb, but we close our hearts to our neighbors. Forgive us, God of grace. Make us people of the resurrection, proclaiming the destruction of death and the gift of glorious new life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Glory to God”

#585

Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
 glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
 glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
 Al-le-luia, A-men! Al-le-luia, A-men! Al-le-luia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Choir Anthem “Now the Green Blade Rises” Donald McCullough, 2019

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Second Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Listen”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith

“An Easter Affirmation” by Peter K. Perry Commissioned Pastor

We believe in an astounding God, who surprises us on Easter morning, who reveals through an empty tomb how overflowingly full of God the creation is. We believe in God, who is light in the darkness, who never gives up on love, who is always working for our good, who weeps when we weep and laughs when we laugh, who calls us to be more than we are as God relentlessly transforms our tears into alleluias.

We believe in the Christ, present at and in the creation, heard in the words of prophets, enfleshed in the birth of a long-sought Messiah, alive in the lessons taught to disciples, not stuck in a tomb of despair, nailed to cross, or buried in the past, but living forever, and walking with us on our journeys today, seen in our stories, present in everything we can see, touch, and imagine.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible presence of God, the joy, hope, and peace of possibilities opening all around us all the time. We believe the Spirit calls us to community, to compassion, to welcome, and to acts of mercy and justice, so that the whole world will quiver with wonder and hope.

We are people of faith in the risen Christ, and we see our Christ in everyone and in everything. We strive to live in such a way that the world will see Christ rising again, in us and through us, with the message of Easter. God cannot be contained; not by books, not by traditions, not by institutions, and not by tombs. God lives. Christ is risen. Alleluia. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Woman, Weeping in the Garden”

#241

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

#240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

#232

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response**

“Thine Is the Glory” (refrain)

#238

Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, conquering Son;
end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

***Postlude**

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

arr. Victor C. Johnson

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Ruthanne Johnson

Acolyte: Devin Griggs