

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer of Adoration

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth. Receive our unending love and devotion as we celebrate today the underserved gift of your love. In the name of the blessed Trinity, now and forever, Amen.

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

(Worship Leader Only: Please, if you are able, and join me in the Call to Worship):

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

***Hymn of Praise** *#123 Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

We invite those who have brought flowers to come forward and place them on the Christmas Tree Cross.

(Worship Leader Only: Let us raise our voices in praise by singing hymn number 123, Jesus Christ Is Risen Today! I would also like to invite those who have brought flowers, and especially children, to come up and place flowers on the cross. There are extras for people to use. And if we are still

putting on flowers on when we have hit the last verse, just start over and keep on singing!)

Call to Celebration

Worship Leader Only: God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us celebrate Christ's resurrection first together and then in the silence of our hearts. Let us pray...

Unison Prayer of Easter Celebration

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! God of resurrection power, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death you also raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you. Receive our unending love and devotion as we celebrate the undeserved gift of your love. Amen.

Prayer Song #106 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, Give praise to his name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth,

Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Silent Reflection and Confession

***Proclamation of the Gospel**

(Worship Leader Only: Please stand and join me in the Proclamation of the Gospel.)

Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of the risen Christ, we have received the new life given in his resurrection! Give glory to God for this wonderful news! Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

As forgiven, freed, and risen people, testify to the joy of resurrection as you offer the peace of Christ to one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name of our Risen Lord!

***The Gloria Patri**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD...

Prayer for Illumination

Worship Leader Only: *Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the word of Life. Amen.*

First Reading

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

Worship Leader Only: *Our first reading comes from Psalm 118. Hear the Word of the Lord!*

Easter Music Offering

Morning Has Broken Eleanor Farjeon

Bassoon: Teagan Null

Second Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Meditation

***Easter Affirmation of Faith**

Adapted from 1 Cor 15:1-6, the Gospel Resurrection Accounts, and The Brief Statement of Faith

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. We 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. Amen

***Hymn of Response** *Christ Has Risen* #2115 Sing the Faith

Offertory

The task of the women close to Jesus was turned upside down. They come to the tomb with the sad job of preparing Jesus' dead body only to hear and accept the wonderful news that Jesus was no longer among the dead, but had risen. Through our giving, we are able to fulfill ministries geared toward sharing that wonderful news with those in need of that wonderful news. Let us bring our gifts, either by putting them in the collection basket behind the last pew, or if online, going to the 'give now' button found on the church's website.

The Lord's Supper (sung to tune Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee)

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

Charge and Benediction

Ring the Tower Bell and Postlude

Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed-Keith and Kristyn Getty
How can it be, the One who died,
Has born our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death?
Sing, sing hallelujah.

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King;
Christ, Christ He is risen.

Chorus

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Oh sing "Hallelujah!"

Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed:

Christ is risen, He's risen indeed!

Where doubt and darkness once had been,

They saw Him and their hearts believed.

But blessed are those who have not seen,

Yet, sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,

They preached the truth and power of grace.

And pouring out their lives they gained

Life, life everlasting.

Chorus

The power that raised Him from the grave

Now works in us to powerfully save.

He frees our hearts to live His grace;

Go tell of His goodness.

Chorus (2x)