

Order of Public Worship of God

The Thirty-First Day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-Four

Easter Sunday

PRELUDE

“To preach Christianity meant (to the Apostles) primarily to preach the Resurrection...The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences, were the ‘gospel’ or good news which the Christians brought.”

- C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*

“For the first time in history (referring to our present age) a purely self-sufficient humanism came to be a widely available option. I mean by this a humanism accepting no final goals beyond human flourishing, nor any allegiance to anything else beyond this flourishing. Of no previous society was this true.”

- Charles Taylor, *Secular Age*

“God isn’t content to save souls; God wants to save bodies too. God isn’t content to save human beings in their individual activities; God wants to save social systems and economic structures too...Everything corrupt needs to be redeemed, and that includes the whole natural world, which both sings and groans. The whole natural world, in all its glory and pain, needs the redemption that will bring shalom.”

- Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., *Engaging God’s World*



OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Creation

Bless this liturgy, our worshipful work:

fill the forms to fit our hearts for Heaven

Breathe your Spirit

into Word, Sacrament, and Prayer

That we might be renewed in Your image

and bring glory to Your Name.

Amen

† HYMN OF WORSHIP | “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Christ, the Lord, is ris’n today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!

Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!

Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

† PROPHETIC LESSON OF HOPE | Ezekiel 37:13-14

And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves,
and raise you from your graves, O my people.

And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live,
and I will place you in your own land.

Then you shall know that I am the Lord;

I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

† CALL TO WORSHIP | I Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

† HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “Rejoice the Lord is King”

Rejoice the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing and triumph evermore:

Refrain:

Lift up your hearts! Lift up your voice, rejoice,

Again, I say rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.

When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above: *(refrain)*

His Kingdom cannot fail! He rules o’er earth and heav’n;

The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv’n: *(refrain)*

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come

And take his servants up to their eternal home: *(refrain)*

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone, my hope is found;

He is my light, my strength, my song.

This Cornerstone, this solid ground,

firm thru’ the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease,

My Comforter, my All in All,

here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,

fullness of God in helpless babe.

This gift of love and righteousness,

scorned by the ones He came to save.

‘Til on that cross as Jesus died,

the wrath of God was satisfied,

For ev’ry sin on Him was laid,

here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,

Light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day,

up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory,

sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine,

bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,

this is the power of Christ in me.

From life’s first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,

can ever pluck me from His hand

‘Til He returns or calls me home,

here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

INVOCATION 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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

† CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH | The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried.

he descended into Hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead

He ascended into heaven

and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting. Amen.

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† GREETING

*Junior Worship begins for children age four through first grade. Please escort children to the following classrooms.
Preschool - Room 10; Kindergarten and First Grade - Room 9. Children will return to sit with their families
before communion.*

READING OF GOD’S WORD | Matthew 19: 27-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | “Resurrection and the Re-Enchantment of the World”

- Rev. James M. Holland

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SILENT CONFESSION

