



*Easter Sunday Worship*  
*April 4, 2021*  
*Let us worship our*  
*Risen Lord!*

*PRELUDE*

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

*We thought you were dead. We thought the cross was the end.  
We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it. But this is it:  
the dead are living; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled, and one word describes it all:  
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!*

*We thought you had said your final word. We thought those with the power had won.  
We thought that when you cried out, that was it. But this is it:  
the word breathes; the powers are defeated; the final cry was only the beginning, and one word says it all:  
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!*

*We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended.  
We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it. But this is it:  
the story has just begun; the hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and one word says it all:  
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!*

*This is the news:  
Jesus is risen!  
This is the moment  
Jesus is alive!  
This is the gospel  
Jesus is with us!*

*We thought that when they crucified you, death had defeated life, and that was it. But this is it:  
Love is stronger than death, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!*

*OPENING PRAYER*

**Loving, Powerful God, joy floods over our souls on this day! Christ is risen! Fear is vanquished! Open our hearts and our spirits to receive fully the joy which has been given for us! Let us celebrate the victory of Christ and the hope for the future! Amen.**

*HYMN #232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

- 1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffered to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*
- 4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

### *CALL TO CONFESSION*

*It is hard to step out of the shadows of these times, to try to embrace the light which is being cast upon us. We have spent so much time searching, hoping, longing for things to change, and in the longing, the hoping, the searching, we forgot so many people, we ignored so much pain, we turned away from grief and loss, afraid it would embrace us.*

*Yet on this day, we are reminded that we are still Easter people, we will be Easter people again, and we are always Easter people! Let us speak our failures and fears which have tried to wipe away the resurrection hope.*

### *PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENNESS*

**Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb we don't always feel the joy of resurrection. We feel fear, doubt, and distrust. We feel empty.**

**Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life. Forgive our doubt of your love. Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light. Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of your name. Amen.**

### *WORDS OF BLESSING AND ASSURANCE*

*This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end. Sing and dance on this day! We are still, we will be again, we are always Easter people! Rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Say it with me: **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Alleluia! Amen.***

### *HYMN #236 The Strife Is O'er*

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won; the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

2. The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed: let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

3. The three sad days are quickly sped; Christ rises glorious from the dead: all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

4. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death's dread sting thy servants free, that we may live, and sing to thee: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### *FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 118:1-2, 5-7, 15-18, 21-24*

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.'

<sup>5</sup> Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

<sup>6</sup> With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?

<sup>7</sup> The Lord is on my side to help me. I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

<sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### *TIME WITH THE CHILDREN*

#### *HYMN #238 Thine Is the Glory*

1. Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Angels in white raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where the body lay.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

*SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON* 1 Corinthians 15:12-26, 55

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>55</sup> 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'

*GOSPEL LESSON* Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*SERMON* The End is the Beginning

*EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

We believe in God

who brings sunshine after rain and works healing in the midst of pain; who looks into each soul with love, touches every memory with blessings and longs for us to know we are beloved; who splashes the world with springtime color and fills the air with the singing of birds and the roar of the ocean; who meets us at the tomb of our fears and sends us out with hope and joy.

We believe in Jesus

the Risen Christ, the friend of the forgotten, Savior of the world; who loves us without judgment yet persuades us to change; who joins us as we walk and work with the poor and oppressed; who befriends us when we feel lonely, surprises us when we feel bored, prods us when we get complacent; who loves all children, dances with the elderly, shows compassion to the dying and blesses the breaking of bread.

We believe in the Holy Spirit

who weaves us into communities of faith of all ages, nations and races; who is the stillness in every silence,

the breath in every deep sigh, the love in every tender embrace.  
We believe we are called to be an Easter people  
challenging despair with glowing hope, acting peacefully in the midst of painful Good Fridays, and living  
joyfully even in the midst of harsh realities.  
We believe in the church  
the hand-holding, heartily singing and passionate-caring fellowship of seekers and finders.  
This we believe. Amen.

*RECOGNITION AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

**God of great gifts: This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks!  
With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully  
present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come!  
Amen.**

*SPECIAL MUSIC*          Jesus Christ is Risen Today    arr. Stephen DeCesare          Paul Wachtendorf, trumpet

*JOYS AND CONCERNS*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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**

*HYMN #233*    The Day of Resurrection!

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
2. Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light, and  
listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain, his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain
3. Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin; the round world keep high triumph and all that is  
therein. Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ the Lord is risen,  
our joy that has no end.

*BENEDICTION*

*POSTLUDE*

**The Easter flowers are given to the Glory of God...**

*In Honor of Su Fall*, from Marilyn Cook.

*In Honor of our Loving Family*, from Ralph and Janet Martin.

*In honor of Marilyn Cook*, from Pat Gessner.

*In Loving Memory of Joe Fraser*, the son of John and Sally Thiessen.

*In Loving Memory of Earl and Pinky Hampton and Rudy and Sally Kalozi*, parents of Jim and Sue Hampton

*In Loving Memory of Kathryn and Elliott Wiggins*, from Rick Wiggins.

*In Loving Memory of Loved Ones*, from Preston and Carol Eckmeder.

*In Loving Memory of Janice's parents, Bob and Edith Payton*, from Bob and Janice Propsner.

*In Loving Memory of Frank Greenwood, Doris and Maynard Bliss (parents of Martha Greenwood), from  
Martha Greenwood.*

*In Loving Memory of Stephen Jencks*, from Craig and Donna Jencks.

*In Loving Memory of David Danilowicz Sr. (Dan's father), Michael Bernstein*, from Dan and Peggy Danilowicz.

*In Loving Memory of Lee Tori*, from Dave and Dee Tori

