

Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021
9:00 a.m. – Front Portico

PRELUDES

Morning Has Broken
I Will Rise

(Instrumental)
Giglio (Arr. by McDonald)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

P: He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

L: God has claimed us as his own.

P: God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

LIGHTING OF THE PASCAL CANDLE

WELCOMING SONG #246

Christ is Alive!

Truro

(verse one)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

(verse two)

Chris is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

(verse five)

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Text by Brian Wrenn

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CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new life, early on this first day of the week, we have come. We have come to sing our “alleluias” but we wonder, “How can this be true? How can the dead rise to new life? How can our sins be forgiven? How can our hearts be made clean?” Help us to see the light, O Lord. Forgive our skepticism and overwhelm us with the power of your redeeming love that conquers sin and death. Send us out to go and tell the good news that Jesus lives!

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE #240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No. 1

(refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.
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FIRST READING – Isaiah 55:1-11 – *Salvation Offered Freely to All*

CHORAL RESPONSE #2115 (STF) – *Christ Has Risen* - v. 1 Holy Manna

Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.

Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

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SECOND READING – Ezekiel 37:1-14 – *The Dry Bones Come to Life*

**OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD – Dressing the Cross
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Christ Has Risen* - v. 2 Holy Manna

Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.

THIRD READING – Zephaniah 3:14-20 – *The Gathering of God's People*

MEDITATION – “*A Song of Joy*”

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Christ Has Risen* - v. 3 Holy Manna

Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.

FOURTH READING – Romans 6:3-11 – *Becoming One with Christ*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Christ Has Risen* - v. 4 Holy Manna

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

FIFTH READING – Luke 24:1-12 – *The Resurrection of Jesus*

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

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...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. Amen.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Alleluia

Coates

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus

(Instrumental)