

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Resurrection of the Lord

EASTER DAY

April 12, 2020

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

arr. Tim Doran

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

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 our lives resound with joy.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of Praise

The Hymn 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

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!

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!

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!

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in Your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of Your promise, confused about Your will and afraid in the face of danger. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess Your Easter victory. Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on Your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us Your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin. . . (time for silent confession). . . In Your mercy hear our prayers and let our lives be a testimony to Your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Litany of Assurance

With the stone rolled away came emptiness-

**Of a tomb that held captive the Crucified,
of the space that was once filled with death,
of the cross that now pointed to greater truth
of God's love in spite of ourselves.**

With the stone rolled away came questions-

**From those whose world lay shattered,
from those who would demand living proof,
from those who were seeking a sign of promise
breeding confidence, assurance and trust.**

With the stone rolled away came light-

**To illumine the darkness of suspicion and fear,
to dispel the shadows of distrust, anxiety, insecurity,
to radiate with the beams of new hope and
understanding the life about to be lived.**

With the stone rolled away comes a future-
**With a truth that outshines the wisdom of ages,
with space to be filled with the kingdom of God,
with the company of those who through history confess
Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Amen.**

*The Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.*

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The New Testament Lesson: *Acts 10:34-43*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24*

The Anthem

This Joyful Eastertide

Vernon Hoyle, arr.

*This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, Hath sprung to life this morrow!
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arise, arisen, arisen.
My flesh in hope shall rest, And for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison.
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen.
Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of soul, from ill my passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen.*

The Epistle Lesson: *Colossians 3:1-4*

The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 28:1-10*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Out of Silence
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The *Affirmation of Faith*

(see Scripture note below)

**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. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

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.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME . . .

*The Hymn 248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

*The Charge and Benediction

Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah

George Frederic Handel

*The Postlude

Concerto in C Major for Two Trumpets

by Antonio Vivaldi

Brendan Shirk, oboe; Scott Shirk, soprano saxophone; Aaron Shirk, cello

The Easter flowers are offered to the glory of God, in thanksgiving for the Resurrection
and in memory of her parents, Anne Wilson Rowe and Josiah Pollard Rowe, III,
by Jeanette Cadwallender.

Our Affirmation of Faith today is taken from the following Scripture verses:

1 Cor. 15:1-6; Mark 16:9 (16:1-9); Matt. 16:16; Rev. 22:13; John 20:28