



APRIL 20, 2025

EASTER SUNDAY & CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

() The congregation will please stand as able*
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

PRELUDE Now the Green Blade Riseth *Arr. for Handbells; Douglas E. Wagner*

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*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

In the nighttime of our sin, the grace of God rises like the dawn.

In the coldness of our hearts, hope rises like the sun.

Into all that is cold and shadowed in our lives, the light of God shines.

From the sleep of sin and the dust of our death

O God of grace, shine your light upon us!

Come to us, and renew us, O God of life!

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Thanks be to God for the light of Christ. Alleluia!

This is the Passover of Christ, the victory of love

over sin and death, evil and violence.

Thanks be to God for the life of Christ. Alleluia!

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Lives a - gain our glo-rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!
* 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
* 6. King of glo-ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where's thy vic - tory, boast-ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
77.77 D

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Pg. 880 United Methodist Hymnal)*

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM: [Now the Green Blade Riseth](#) Arr. [Simon Lindley](#) (1948-2025)

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

1. 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!

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Christ has risen and for ever
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.

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GOSPEL LESSON:** [Luke 24:1-12](#) **(Pg. 860) *

For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

ALLELUIA – Philip Stopford

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SERMON



"Living Beyond the Tomb"

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

**I serve a risen Savior he's in the world today
I know that He is living whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
and just the time I need Him, He's always near**

CHORUS

***He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.***

In all the world around me, I see His loving care
and though my heart grows weary I never will despair.
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast,
the day of His appearing will come at last.

CHORUS

Rejoice rejoice O Christian lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King.
The Hope of all who seek Him the Help of all who find
None other is so loving So good and kind

CHORUS

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**God of the bright and morning star,
God of the rising sun,
God of darkness banished, we praise and worship you!
For empty tombs: thank you!
For disciples running with good news: thank you!
For your presence, alive,
powerful, resurrected: thank you!
We celebrate your victory over death,
over all the powers that would defeat us.
Help us to grasp resurrection; to understand its power,
to see its force at work in our world,
overturning evil empires,
changing the hatred within us,
moving the world slowly, forcefully,
bending us towards love and truth.
On this day of great gladness
empower us to be your ambassadors,
proclaiming good news.
Good news in our kitchens and living rooms,
good news in the offices and workshops
good news in the fields and factories.
Help us to be that good news,
walking softly on this good earth
caring gently for all people,
living hopefully into your kingdom.**

**Today we think of all who are grieving,
and for the sick and dying,
for places in the world
that are torn by war and bloodshed.
In this world of broken hopes and dreams
we catch sight of your kingdom come,
in the person of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns in us forever.
Amen.**

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

[Hallelujah Chorus](#)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Hallelujah.....
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah....
The kingdom of this world;
is become the kingdom of our Lord,
and of His Christ
And he shall reign forever and ever
King of kings forever and ever hallelujah....
And he shall reign forever and ever
King of kings and Lord of lords
Hallelujah!

*Words from Revelation, Music by G. F. Handel from his Oratorio THE MESSIAH;
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*DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;
praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:

Harmony

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)

Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is risen

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Lift Up Your hearts.....

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.....

It is right to give our thanks and praise

..... *and all the company of heaven*

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

..... *in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.....*



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

..... *all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.*



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Prayer Following Communion:

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Christ Is Alive

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1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris-tians sing. His cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
this and ev - ery age, till earth and all cre -

prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
here and now and dwell in ev - ery place and time.
midst of life, our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
a - tion ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

[Kenneth Leighton](#) (1929-1988)

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Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

Kent Marzoli

Video and Sound Engineer:

Same Tweedy

Altar Flowers:

From the Congregation, HAPPY EASTER

Cover Image:

Tissot, James, 1836-1902. *Mary Magdalene Questions the Angels in the Tomb*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56871> [retrieved April 18, 2025]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_Mary_Magdalene_Questions_the_Angels_in_the_Tomb_\(Madeleine_dans_le_tombeau_interroge_les_anges\)_-_James_Tissot.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_Mary_Magdalene_Questions_the_Angels_in_the_Tomb_(Madeleine_dans_le_tombeau_interroge_les_anges)_-_James_Tissot.jpg).

Background on the Bulletin Cover can be found by [following this link](#).

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com

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Looking Ahead

Readings for April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

[Acts 5:27-32 / Psalm 118: 14-29](#)

[Revelation 1:4-8 / John 20:19-31](#)

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