

# <u>APRIL 20, 2025</u>

# 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

Music: Traditional French Carol Arranged for handbells by Douglas E. Wagner © 2005, The Lorenz Publishing Corporation 750 Old Hickory Blvd. Suite 2-202 Brentwood, TN 37027; recorded with permission under <u>OneLicense.net # A-711296.</u>

# \*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!

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**



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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: <u>Now the Green Blade Riseth</u> Arr. <u>Simon Lindley</u> (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

#### \*<u>HYMN OF PREPARATION</u> NO. 2115 Christ Has Risen

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!
- 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: <u>Luke 24:1-12</u> (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

#### <u>CHORUS</u>

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.

### <u>CHORUS</u>

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
<u>CHORUS</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>CCLI Song #17597;</u> Words: Alfred Henry Ackley © Words: 1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver. Renewed 1961 Curb Word Music; Music: 1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver. Renewed 1961 Curb Word Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. <u>www.ccli.com</u> Reprint and recording is in accordance with the terms <u>CCLI License #21279385 & 21279392</u>

### 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; Words and Music are in the Public Domain.

#### \*DOXOLOGY



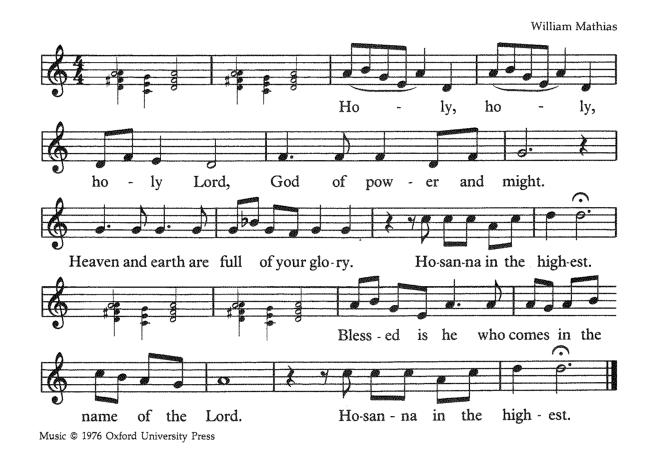
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#### Offertory Prayer:

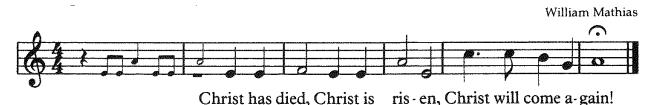
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:

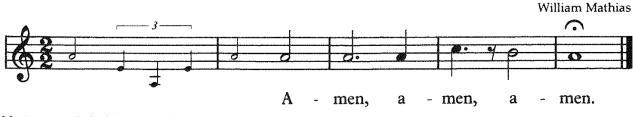


..... in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.....



Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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



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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**



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Liturgist:

Altar Flowers:

Video and Sound Engineer:

Same Tweedy

Kent Marzoli

From the Congregation, HAPPY EASTER

<u>Cover Image:</u> Tissot, James, 1836-1902. <u>*Mary Magdalene Questions the Angels in the Tomb*</u>, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,

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\_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 <u>Acts 5:27-32 / Psalm 118: 14-29</u> Revelation 1:4-8 / John 20:19-31

*For more about our ministries please visit our website* <u>http://www.firstumcrochester.org/</u> Follow or "LIKE" us on <u>Facebook</u>