

A Service of Worship
April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *This Joyful Eastertide* -Woodward

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *An Easter Celebration* -Raney

*Call to Worship Sarah Rimer, Worship Leader

Early in the morning light,

Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb.

The tomb was empty, the stone rolled away,

for God's love is stronger than death itself.

Let us join our voices with Mary :

"We have seen the Lord!"

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

*Opening Prayer

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we may proclaim to the world: Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus Christ is Risen Today! Amen.

*Hymn *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* 232

*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!*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**O God, you raised Christ from the tomb
and shattered the powers of sin and evil.
Raise us from the tombs of our sin, O Lord,
and bring us to new life in you.
You bring us good news of Easter joy.
Forgive us when we cannot hear it.
You send us out to share your love.
Forgive us when we cannot carry it.
You cast a vision for peace and justice.
Forgive us when we cannot imagine it.
Forgive us when we stand in its way.
For you are the God of the empty tomb,
the one who makes all things new.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

In Christ there's always hope – for if the grave cannot hold him and death cannot defeat him, nothing is impossible for him. This same Christ is with us in this place today and will be with us everywhere and always.

This is the good news of Easter: in Christ we are forgiven and made new!

*Response of Praise

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

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*Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

We Gather around God's Word

Time with the Children

Hannah Altman

Anthem

Awake My Heart With Gladness

-Organ

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! Sing we now this joyful day.
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Our triumphant holy day.*

*Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done;
now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious Son
My savior there was laid where our bed must be made
when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.*

*Now hell, its prince, the devil, of all their power are shorn;
now I am safe from evil, and sin I laugh to scorn.
For Christ again is free; from glorious victory
he who is strong to save has triumphed o'er the grave.*

*This is a sight that gladdens what peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.*

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! Sing we now this joyful day.
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Our triumphant holy day.*

*Now I will cling forever to Christ, my Savior true;
my Lord will leave me never, what e'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.*

*Christ brings me to the portal that leads to bliss untold,
whereon this rhyme immortal is found in script of gold:
"Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown prepared;
who there with me has died shall here be glorified."*

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! Sing we now this joyful day.
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Our triumphant holy day.*

Scripture

John 20:1-18

Sermon

Pastor Ann Pettit

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

**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.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Hymn

Thine is the Glory

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

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

(Verse 2, Choir, only)
*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. (Refrain)*

**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. (Refrain)**

Easter Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Christ is Alive

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**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.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in paradise,
But saving, healing here and now,
And touching every place and time.**

*In every insult, rift and was
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
CHRist suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.*

*Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*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 peace.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Jesus Christ is Risen

-Hobby

Many thanks to the brass quintet for their leadership in today's worship service.