



**March 31, 2024  
Easter Day**

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**  
\*Please stand as you are able

**Liturgist: 8:30: Carolyn Masters 11:00: Tina Wilmoth**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Alleluiah!*

Mozart

*The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist

The tomb is dark, but empty

**The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness**

The stone has been rolled away

**The one you are looking for has overcome death**

The burial clothes are put aside

**The one you are looking for is alive!**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen Indeed!**

**Let us worship our Risen Savior!**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

God, just as you raised Jesus from the dead,  
you offer us new and transformed lives  
in the risen Christ.

We rejoice and give thanks for this good news,  
which has been handed down to us  
from generation to generation.

May we, too, be witnesses of Jesus,  
who you anointed with the Holy Spirit

to bring blessings of mercy and healing.  
May we be witnesses of Jesus' suffering and death,  
and how he meets us in the broken places  
of our lives.  
Most of all, may we be witnesses of the resurrection,  
sharing your promise of forgiveness and grace  
with all people.  
This is your doing, O God.  
It is marvelous in our eyes. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

UMH 304

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**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

Liturgist

God sends this message of joy to all people, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.  
Let us share this holy peace with one another.

*Please turn to those around you and greet them with the peace of the resurrected Christ.*

**Children's Message**

Pastor Larry

**Ministry of Music**

*Resurrection Glory*

Choir

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**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Liturgist

**Hear now the good news of Easter. It spreads throughout the world. It began with Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection; it continued with those who witnessed the risen Christ; and now, it comes to us today, as we listen to God's word. Amen**

*John 20: 1-18*

Liturgist

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the

linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**\*Hymn**

*Up from the Grave He Arose*

UMH 322

**Sermon**

*Easter Hearts*

Pastor Larry

**Affirmation of Faith**

*(based on 1 Peter 1:3-9)*

**We believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by whose mercy we are given new birth  
into a living hope through  
Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

**We believe that through Christ  
we are born into an inheritance  
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading;  
and into a present salvation that will be revealed  
in its fullness in the last time.**

**We believe that until that time,  
the Spirit works in us  
to grow the genuineness of our faith,  
that we may give praise, glory, and honor**

Pastor Larry

when Jesus, whom we love but have not seen,  
is revealed. Amen.

### **Morning Prayer**

Pastor Larry

Good and gracious God,  
Our most glorious Creator,  
As we greet the signs in nature around us:  
Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,  
In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,  
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.  
The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality.  
For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will  
overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.  
As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to  
us,  
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among  
us as we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet.  
We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers  
of Easter joy and hope.  
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever who taught us to pray:

### **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  
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory forever. Amen.**

### **Offertory Invitation**

Liturgist

Friends, God has opened the gates of righteousness. Let us accept God's invitation and offer  
gifts of thanksgiving in Christ's name.

### **Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory*                      *To Thee, O Newly Risen Lord*                      Riggs  
*\*Doxology*                      *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*  
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***  
***Praise God, all creatures here below:***  
***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***  
***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***  
***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

Liturgist

**Holy God, thank you for your goodness and mercy,  
especially for the good news  
of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
May these offerings, and indeed our very lives,  
become a witness to all people  
of the salvation and grace,  
you bring into the world. Amen.**

### GOING FORTH TO SERVE

**\*Hymn**

*He Lives*

UMH 310

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**\*Benediction**

Pastor Larry

**\*Choral Benediction**

*He Lives*

*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.*

**\*Postlude**

*Venite Adoremus*

Nordman

## **EASTER PEOPLE, RAISE YOUR VOICES**

*Easter people, raise your voices,  
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;  
Heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

*Fear of death can no more stop us  
From our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to  
Triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.*

*Every day to us is Easter,  
With its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
To our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.*

## **RESURRECTION GLORY (MINISTRY OF MUSIC)**

*Christ the Lord is ris'n today! Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high! Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head: Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!*

*Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!*

## **UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE**

*Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!*

### **Refrain:**

***Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!***

*2 Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]*

*3 Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;  
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]*

## **HE LIVES**

*I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;  
I know that he is living, whatever foes 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.*

### **Refrain:**

***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. **Refrain***

*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. **Refrain***