

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESSURECTION OF OUR LORD
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
APRIL 4, 2021 - 10:15 AM
ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of grace and power, we have longed and prepared for this joyous day: on Ash Wednesday we humbled ourselves before you, on Maundy Thursday we learnt a new commandment, on Good Friday we cried at the foot of the cross, on Holy Saturday we kept vigil, and on this Blessed Sunday we rejoice in the risen power of love, hope, and new life. Make this rising real in our own lives. Let us be people of love, hope, and new life. Let us be people of joy.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia! hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled
but the crucified redeemer now is risen from the dead.
- 2 Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;
glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn;
Christ has triumphed and we conquer by God's liberating deed;
now the Christ with us abiding to eternal life shall lead.
- 3 Christ is risen, we are risen! shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.
- 4 Alleluia, alleluia! glory be to the God of joy:
alleluia to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy;
alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity:
alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Hallelujah!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of grace, despair, pain, and fear are part of life; sometimes we let them guide us. Sometimes we let them hold us back from living your way, and we lose sight of your strong love. Help us be a brave and holy people, living beyond fear. Teach us to trust in your steadfast love. Amen.

ASSURANCE

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE – *Based on St. Patrick, facing each other:*

Unison: Christ's peace be with you,
Christ's peace within you,
Christ's peace behind you,
Christ's peace before you,
Christ's peace beside you,
Christ's peace to win you,
Christ's peace to comfort and restore you,
Christ's peace be with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6 – 9

New Testament: John 20:1 – 18

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *LOVE IS HERE* – Tenth Avenue North

Darin Jellison

SERMON: *Let Me OUT Already!*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

THE EASTER AFFIRMATION

Your light is the only light we need as we travel through life's mystery
Your word the only voice we hear that still small voice that leads us
to the place where we should be

Your presence is the only company we need as we walk this narrow road
Your fellowship the warmth we crave to help us on our way

May the truth of Easter

The joy of Easter

And the blessings of Easter

Be with us this day and all days

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: As purple gives way to gold, hear our prayers for times of suffering, in a world that is unjust for too many.

Unison: May we live towards wholeness.

Pastor: As thorns give way to crowns, hear our prayers for oppression in our land by trade that is imbalanced.

Unison: May we live towards liberation for all.

Pastor: As tombs give way to gardens, hear our prayers for worries that keep us from flourishing in your care.

Unison: May we live towards your shalom.

Pastor: As yesterday gives way to tomorrow, hear our prayers for the future that holds too much uncertainty or loneliness.

Unison: May we live towards your vision.

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.

We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: 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.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BECAUSE HE LIVES* – Gaither Trio

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.

MOVING INTO COMMUNION

SPECIAL MUSIC: *REDEEMED* – Big Daddy Weave

Darin Jellison

The prayer of great thanksgiving

Pastor: Christ is risen!

Unison: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Unison: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

Unison: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, you are creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in you. Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their worst, your love has never deserted us. Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us. We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life, eternal as your love. With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness. Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death! The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom. And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name.

Benedictus

Unison: Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever. Amen.

Memorial Acclamation

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Wine

Pastor: The body of Christ,

Unison: the bread of life.

Pastor: The lifeblood of Christ,

Unison: the cup of blessing.

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God!

Unison: Thanks be to God!

Concluding Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY*

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply,
Alleluia!

2 Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting?
Alleluia! Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave?
Alleluia!

3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won,
Alleluia! Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise,
Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head,
Alleluia! Made like Christ, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the
skies, Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Special thanks to Joan Hassler for reading scripture, to Darin Jellison for sharing
special music, and to our Stream Team for recording
today's service.
Blessings!*