

**CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP**  
**EASTER SUNDAY** **APRIL 4, 2021**

**GATHERING MUSIC AND WORDS OF WELCOME**

*Thank you for masking and continuing to keep distance.*

**PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Exhale. Go ahead, exhale. Breathe out. Let go. On this Easter Sunday, allow your souls to be replenished. Take in the joy. Take in peace. Take in the togetherness. Take what you need.

And wonder. Wonder, and imagine, and reflect, and question, and listen. Listen deeply to the words and the songs. Listen deeply to the Holy Spirit. And hear the words that God has for you.

We emerge from the long days of Lent; our journey, walking in hope. And we acknowledge that there is a darkness that seems to loom in this world. And we remember that nestled within the great mystery of the Resurrection is a great light. Search for that light, that hope on this day.

So, we come into this space, this *sacred* space, and we bring ourselves; our *whole* selves. As we celebrate the Risen Savior, bring your full selves into worship because Christ is risen!<sup>1</sup>

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION** *Christ the Lord is Risen, Today*

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of Joy, in this place, we are witnesses to the table you have spread for all creation. This celebration nourishes the deepest needs of our souls, relieves our fears, and pours the healing oil of gladness in all our wounds. On this day, we raise our alleluias, giving thanks for the truth neither human sin nor the power of death is stronger than your love. Our souls exult in your merciful salvation, today and forever. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

**TIME WITH THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

**SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY** *Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24* *Mark 16:1-8*

**MORNING REFLECTION** *It's All About...*

**DEDICATION OF TITHES, GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*You will receive the communion elements in the pews during the Hymn of Preparation. Then, at the designated time in the liturgy, we will all take the bread together, then all drink the cup together. You may put your napkin and cup in the bag, and leave it in the wastebaskets at the door as you leave.*

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** *In the Garden* *#314 vs 1,2*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you!

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.**

... the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

## 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.

## THE MEAL TOGETHER

*We will remain in our places*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy, gracious, God, Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

**We have rested in the depth of your love;**

**We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;**

**We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.**

**Together, at this table, you have offered us life.**

**Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.**

**And we give you thanks.<sup>3</sup>**

## HYMN OF THANKS

*In the Garden*

#314 vs 3

## BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

<sup>1</sup> Ashley Johnson

<sup>2</sup> Julia Seymour

<sup>3</sup>adapted from Katherine Hawker

## **Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

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

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

## **In the Garden (I Come to the Garden Alone)**

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing.

(Refrain)

I'd stay in the garden with him though the night around me be falling, but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)