



Order of worship

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

Call to worship *(Psalm 118)*

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed!

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Call to confession

Friends, the good news of the risen Christ is that the death-tending realities of our world have been overcome. Because Christ is risen, we are no longer enslaved to hatred, greed, anxiety and fear. Indeed, we are freed to live in Christ and for one another. Let us confess our sin in order that we might live in and through the risen Christ.

Prayer of confession

O God, in raising Christ from dead, you have set us free from self-absorption, doubt and fear. Yet we continue to live as those who are enslaved to enmity towards others and ourselves. We have been called to love you with all of who we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we are turned in upon ourselves and refuse to love. Empower us with the new life of the risen Christ so that we might be free to love you, others and ourselves as we ought. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Our baptism assures us that, in the risen Christ, enmities based in race, gender and class have been washed away. As Paul tell us, for those who are clothed in Christ, "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female." Old divisions have been crucified in Christ so that we who are raised with Christ might live in mutuality and peace.



Prayer for illumination

Just as God breathed life into dry bones, God's Spirit will give the life of the risen Word to us today. Help us to hear the good news of Easter as we read the words of Scripture. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(From A Brief Statement of Faith)*

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.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Call for the offering *(Psalm 23)*

The Lord prepares a table for us in the midst of all that threatens us,
and God mercy follows us all the days of our lives. Let us give to others
as God has given to us.

Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, accept what we offer today on the promise that we will
become Easter people, and a blessing to one another and to the earth.
Amen.



Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

We offer our prayers through Christ, who is risen from the dead, and through the Spirit gives life to our mortal lives.

In the risen Christ, we pray for the church. Let us be Easter people who live in the power of the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. And let us be salt and light for our world — encouraging the downtrodden, standing with the marginal, resisting oppression in all of its forms. God who brings life out of death, **hear our prayer.**

In the risen Christ, we pray for the earth. Let us be healers of your good creation — utilizing sustaining practices that mend the earth and its creatures. God who brings life out of death, **hear our prayer.**

In the risen Christ, we pray for all nations. Let us be agents of your love for the peoples of the earth — especially for nations torn by war and blood and crippled by the coronavirus. God who brings life out of death, **hear our prayer.**

In the risen Christ, we pray for our communities. Let us extend care and compassion to those who are grieving and fearful because of mass shootings. And let us be especially attentive to those who are fearful because of the racialized violence in our communities. Help us to know that when some are crucified, all are crucified, and empower to us for justice-seeking in our schools, neighborhoods, cities and regions. God who brings life out of death, **hear our prayer.**

In the risen Christ, we pray for loved ones. Let us be agents of hope for those who are fragile in our families, churches and community, and help us to comfort the afflicted. God who brings life out of death, **hear our prayer.**

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, *Our Father...*



Charge and benediction (*Romans 8*)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead
is giving life to your mortal bodies.

So fear not — for nothing in life or death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Roger Gench
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