

# Order of Worship

Easter Day

March 31, 2024

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## Call to worship (from “Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” GTG #248)

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Celebrate this day of days!

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Let all creation be amazed!

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ is Risen!**

## Call to confession

The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God’s resurrecting power. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

## Prayer of confession

**Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our death-dealing sins, our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon (“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today,” GTG #232)

“Jesus Christ is risen today. But the pains which he endured, our salvation have procured.”

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.

## Prayer for illumination

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ’s everlasting hope. Amen.

## Scripture readings

## Sermon



## **Affirmation of faith** (*Book of Common Worship*)

This is the good news  
which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins  
according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared  
first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

## **Call for the offering**

Give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise of Christ's resurrecting ministry.

## **Prayer of dedication**

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God of resurrection, of new life, of new beginnings, we stand before the empty tomb full of terror and amazement — like the Scripture describes the women who first discovered this miracle. We are amazed, Holy God, by your power, by your love, by the grace you extend to us and our world, even when we are undeserving. On this Easter Sunday, we bow before you in prayer, lifting our petitions for those who suffer and struggle, and searching for the strength, guidance and hope we need to serve as your faithful disciples. In your mercy, Risen Savior, hear our prayers.

Our terror is real and debilitating, God. We fear for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for our world. Evil has gained traction, convincing many that violence and war, death and destruction are acceptable means to human ends. Forgive us, God. Turn our hearts toward what is holy and right. Turn our faces toward your risen Son, whose light graces us with peace, love, and divine wisdom. On this Easter morning, let us recommit ourselves to Christ's path of peace and the road of Christian discipleship. This road is difficult and most challenging. But this road also leads to new and renewed life.

Savior, hear our prayers that all who are struggling know your resurrection hope.



We pray for those struggling under the weight of despair...  
We pray for those who feel trapped and victimized...  
We pray for those who lack necessary resources for survival...  
We pray for those who are exhausted and overwhelmed...  
We pray for those who are traumatized or depressed...  
We pray for those who are unsafe and without a place or a people to call home...  
We pray for the sick, the grieving, the loved ones we know are struggling...

God of hope, hear our prayers, as well as those we name silently now before you.

Pause for silent prayers of petition.

Strong God, we praise you as the one who rolls stones away from empty tombs and as the one who opens minds and softens hearts. We stand in awe of your power on this Easter Sunday. We celebrate your risen Son. As the flowers bloom this spring and the butterflies emerge from their cocoons, we cannot help but hope in your everlasting love, our strong foundation that grounds us even as the world around us shakes.

Now hear us as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us saying, **“Our Father...”**.

### **Charge and benediction**

Celebrate this day of days!  
Rejoice in God, your Savior!  
Know the new life gifted through Jesus Christ!  
Shout your Alleluia's for all to hear!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.

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