Order of Worship

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025

Call to worship (from the hymn "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" *Glory to God*, #232)

Jesus Christ is risen today!

Alleluia!

Our triumphant and holy day!

Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host!

Alleluia!

Call to confession

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, not even death. Trusting in this Good News, let us turn to God to honestly confess our sins.

Prayer of confession

You call us to hope, Savior God, but we despair. You call us to work for peace, but we doubt its power. You call us to community, but we judge and shun. Transform us, Holy One, by the joy of this Easter. Let us celebrate this day as a new beginning and a new life. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Christ conquered death to restore us to life. Believe this good news. Live this resurrection. Hope in God's promise because we are forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Savior God, we need your good news. We need the challenge of your Holy Spirit. We need this time of Word and worship. Help us to tune our hearts and minds to your will and your way as we approach the Scriptures today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (*Book of Order*)

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Call for the offering

With glad and generous hearts, let us give from what we have received.

Prayer of dedication

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as tokens of our gratitude and bless Christ's ministry with these offerings. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

The heavens and earth rejoice! God raised Jesus from the dead and promised us everlasting life. Nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ. We praise you, O Holy One. We adore you. We celebrate our new life in Christ. Hear these prayers of your people for the power of resurrection to transform us and set us free.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God,

from exhaustion and anxiety, great resignations, political divisions, gas-lighting and culture wars.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God,

from our tendencies to hoard and consume without thought of neighbor or planet, from our need to satisfy every craving, from our habit of stuffing ourselves beyond what is healthy or necessary.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God,

from our thirst for violence, our rationalization of revenge, our disbelief in peace as a pragmatic path.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God,

from all that lays waste to our souls, the messages that we are unworthy and incapable of becoming who you created us to be, denying imago dei in ourselves and others.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God,

from doubts and depression, from hopelessness and despair, from painful waves of grief.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God,

from the social evils that plague us, the injustice of poverty, racism, transphobia, homophobia, and xenophobia.

In your mercy,
resurrect us, O God.

Living Christ, we praise you for opening the gates of everlasting life and leading us through the wilderness to this glorious day of hope. We are not lost. We are not alone. We welcome you, our Risen Savior.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught us, "Our Father...".
ng: **"Our Father..."**

Charge and benediction

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!

Leave this worship a resurrected people, living into the hope of the gospel's good news!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. Amen.

THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK