

Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

Prelude

Arnold Sherman

“The Strife Is O’er”

Sanctuary Handbells, 2003

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Come, let us rejoice!

We are here to celebrate the good news.

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, on this day we celebrate our risen Lord. Hear our praise and celebration. Receive our thanksgiving. Bless this time with your Spirit that as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection we may be filled with joy, strengthened in our faith, and equipped for our service in his name. Amen.

232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, *Ilya Davidica*, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740.
 Spanish trans. Juan Bautista Cabrera, alt.; Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea
 MUSIC: *Ilya Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

EASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7 with alleluia!

Call to Confession

The promise of God's love lives within us, yet we sometimes indulge in self-defeating habits. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. Please join me in the prayer of confession followed by our own time of silent confession.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Where have our awe and wonder gone? All too often we come to this Easter as to a curiosity we have seen before. All too often we are ready and eager to return to our homes. Forgive us for allowing the regularity of this celebration to become routine, and us nonchalant, in the face of the miracle of the resurrection. Instill in us once more the wonder of this day. Set us to the joyful opportunity of reporting that we have seen the Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, just as the risen Jesus called Mary by name, he calls us. And in his voice, he sets us free from sorrow and despair. Hear the good news; He is risen for us and in his rising our sins are truly forgiven.

Prayer of Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Provençal Carol

arr. S. Drummond Wolff

“Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful”

Sanctuary Choir, 2008, Marco Gonzales, Trumpet

Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth the song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein.

*He is risen, Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy, that hath no end.*

From death to life eternal, from earth on to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let all things seen and unseen,
their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy,
that hath no end. Amen!

Second Reading

John 20:1-18

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

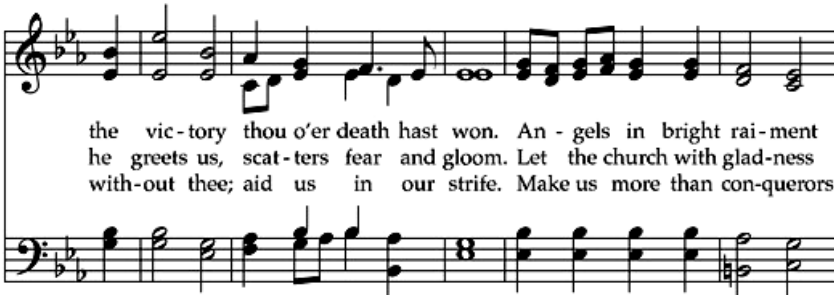
Sermon

The Rev. David Slyter

238 Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is
2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught



the vic-tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai-ment
he greets us, scat-ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad-ness
with-out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death-less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-que- ring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Josiah* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

TEXT: Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt.
MUSIC: George Frederick Handel, 1748

JUDAS MACCABEUS
5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5 with refrain

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Stewardship

In the spirit of the first believers, we are called to share our goods in common and contribute to the needs of the poor with glad and generous hearts. Let us offer to God a portion of what we have been given to share the good news.

Offertory

Douglas E. Wagner

“Rejoice, the Lord Has Risen”

Sanctuary Choir, 2003

Rejoice! The Lord has risen from the dead,
alive and with us now, our spirits led.
So as it was when all creation said: “Alleluia!”

From winter’s bitter chill we are reborn;
New life is ours on this triumphant morn;
With voices clear, we raise the antiphon: “Alleluia!”

Free from the bonds of earth our Lord did rise,
and bought our freedom with this sacrifice.
Therefore, we chant this hymn unto the skies:
“Alleluia!”

Alleluia! Rejoice, He’s risen from the dead!
Rejoice, the Lord has risen!

Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God receive these gifts of thanks and praise, along with our lives of love and service. We bring these gifts in gratitude and as symbols of our commitment to the good news. Bless us and these gifts to service in the name of the risen one. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Voluntary

William F. Sherwin

“Break Thou the Bread of Life

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

LLANFAIR
 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

Benediction

Go forth as those who know that we are loved
beyond limit or measure to preach peace as Christ
did – to love across every distance and divide, until
all know that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

Closing Choral Anthem

G. F. Handel

“Hallelujah!”

Sanctuary Choir, 2003

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become
the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;
and He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of kings, and Lord of Lords.

Hallelujah!

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

arr. Wilber Held

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

During the time of Stewardship we will not pass the offering plate. If you would like to contribute financially to the ministries of Grace First, you may do so by placing your offering in the designated box in the Narthex as you leave the Sanctuary, or by visiting this link.

<https://gracefirstpc.churchcenter.com/giving>

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