

Easter

Service of Worship March 31, 2024 11:00am
Easter Day/Resurrection of the Lord

Gathering

THE FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

(You are invited to come forward and place a flower on the cross as a symbol of the transition from Good Friday to Easter. As you place your flower, remember Jesus' death and give thanks for his resurrection.)

PRELUDE

Linda Dover, organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Karen Wright

One: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ our King is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

One: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

One: Rejoice, O mother church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 826 "Lift High the Cross" arr. Paul Leddington Wright
Refrain All Throughout ... Verse 1 All (*Parts*) CRUCIFER
Verse 2 High Voices (*Unison to End*) ... Verse 3 Low Voices ... Verse 4 All

Symbols of faith are returned to the Sanctuary

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*spoken together*)

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us trust your power to change our lives and make our faces shine with resurrection light, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: We share the peace of Christ saying, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*HYMN ANTHEM 233 + "The Day of Resurrection" LANCASHIRE
A Hymn Concertato arr. Shelton Ridge Love
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers – *Sings All*
Chancel Brass & Percussion
Congregation sings stanzas 1 & 3, on cue

233 The Day of Resurrection!

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

Equipping

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 (NRSVue)

Dave Pack

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

ANTHEM

+“Crown Him!”

DIADEMATA

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel Brass & Percussion

quoting HYMN TO JOY

Alleluia! Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne:

Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.

*Alleluia! Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Alleluia!*

*Crown him the Lord of love: behold his hands and side –
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright. Alleluia!*

*Crown him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave,
who rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring and lives that death my die. Alleluia!*

*Crown him the Lord of heav'n: one with the Father known,
one with the Spirit through him giv'n from yonder glorious throne.
To thee be endless praise, for thou for us hast died;
Be thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!*

Gospel Lesson

Mark 16:1–8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that

the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Fear or Faith?"

Rev. Karen Wright

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

"Joy and Grace"

by Michael Helman

Charter Ringers

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of great gifts: This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayers of the People, and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 Words of Institution

Music for Communion (*Congregation is invited to sing*)

Hymn 250

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

PROMISE

Hymn 251

"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

MFURAHINI HALLELUYA

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *please partake of the bread first and then drink.*

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*HYMN (inserted)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

EASTERTIDE

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 194

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Love's re-deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heav - en join to say, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once He all doth save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ hath o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
7.7.7.7 with alleluias

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE (*seated*)

“Lift High the Cross”

Linda Dover, organist

CRUCIFER
by Paul Manz

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

*+The choral anthem, “The Day of Resurrection”
arr. Shelton Ridge Love, was donated in memory of
Joe Hoffman from his memorial funds.*

*+The choral anthem, “Crown Him!” arr. Dan Forrest,
was donated by Linda & Paul Bruns in memory of
Linda’s parents, Charles & Letha Ellis, in gratitude
for their influence and support.*

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**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
11100 College Blvd, OPKS 66210
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EASTER MUSICIANS AND MEDIA

Tech & Media Crew

Jason Turner, audio/visual technician
Paul Bruns, Joel Kesler, Ray Kowalczewski,
& Nelson Townsend, tech & media crew

Charter Ringers

Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors
Elizabeth Bures, Kathy Bures, Linda Bruns, Lindsay Callender, Edwin Fukunaga, Katie Hearn, Donna Heer,
Cheryl Johnson, Jim Kelly, Keith Langabee, Angela Krug, Lynn Long, Lara Schesser, & Cal Sweeten

Chancel Brass & Percussion

Darryl Prater & Russ Thompson, trumpets
Jim Kelly, horn
Mike Hockley & Lara Schesser, euphoniums
Trey Bures, tuba
Keith Langabee, percussion

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Linda Dover, organist – Rebecca J. Prater, director

Sopranos

Liz Chandler
Abby Crane
Cheryl Johnson
Karen Kesler
Beth Lillian
Chris Lindsay
Terri Monrad
Cindy Schendel
Lara Schesser
Kathy Williams

Altos

Linda Bruns
Kathy Bures
Susan Hayden
Diane Hevener
Teresa Ilten
Pam Kelly
*Connie Richards
Melanie Townsend
**Music Librarian*

Tenors

Joel Ilten
Conor Schesser
Ellin Schoenfeld
David Sutherland
Cal Sweeten
Gene Wilson

Basses

Paul Bruns
+Bob Dover
Mac Fechtling
~Edwin Fukunaga
Rob Schendel

+Assistant Director
~Assistant Accompanist