

Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

~Gathering the Family of God~

**The Peal of the Church Bell**

**Prelude**                      *Jesus of Nazareth, Savior and King*                      arr. Terri Hutchings

**Welcome**

One: The Lord is risen!

**All: He is risen, indeed!**

**Call to Worship**

One: Beloved church, behold the victory of our God:  
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

**All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Sin and death shall reign no more.

**All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Let this place resound with joy.

**All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to new life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!" Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

**\*Hymn**                      *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*                      #232

**\*Call to Confession**

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**\*Confession of Sin (unison)**

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence.**

**Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory.**

**Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Silent Confession**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Listen, church: This is the good news. God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to fear or death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed to live in hope and faith. The Lord is Risen!

**All: He is risen, indeed!**

**\*Gloria Patri**

# 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain

~Hearing God's Word~

**Time with Young Disciples**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the Word of Life. Amen.

**First Reading**

One: The Word of the Lord.                      Acts 10:34-43                      page 129

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

One: The Word of the Lord                      Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29                      page 565

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle**

One: The Word of the Lord                      Colossians 3:1-4                      page 201

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*                      Walter Pelz

**Gospel**

One: The Word of the Lord.                      John 20:1-18                      page 114

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

*Fear and Joy*                      Rev. Terry Epling

**\*Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

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. [The Apostles Creed].

**\*Hymn** *Thine is the Glory* #238

**~Responding to God's Word~**

**Invitation to Give**

God has given us new life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

**Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad**

*Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad. You may also share any joys or concerns on the cards in the pews. Place them in the offering plate for inclusion in the pastoral prayer.*

**Offertory** *He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus* Dietrich Buxtehude

**\*Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* #606  
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***  
***Praise God, all creatures here below;***  
***Praise God above, ye heavenly host,***  
***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.***

**\* Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever.

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**\* Closing Hymn** *Christ is Alive!* #246

**Life in Our Church Community**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction** *An Easter Benediction* Gary Miller

**\*Postlude** *Diademata*

\*Please stand, if you are able. Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.