

*I know that you are looking for
Jesus who was crucified.*

*He isn't here, because he's been
raised from the dead,
just as he said.*

MATTHEW 28:5b-6a



ORDER OF WORSHIP

At South Presbyterian Church on Resurrection of the Lord Sunday
April 9, 2023

We are delighted that this Easter Day finds you at worship with this congregation.

Our liturgy calls for engagement and participation in the praises of God.

Please note that **phrases in bold** are spoken by the congregation.

At this symbol * worshipers rise in body or in spirit as able.

The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.

All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

THE BACKGROUND

Our service of divine worship today flows from the Good Friday service.

As we enter the sanctuary, the echoes of denials, betrayals, and doubters that surrounded our Lord Jesus during his final days still ring in our ears and our hearts.

The darkness all around reminds us of the coldness and finality of the tomb.

The resurrection story has proven difficult for some, too unbelievable for others.

The stirring of new life is about to permeate the dead places of our souls.

May God overcome our reluctance to believe and raise the veil that obscures our vision of the resurrected Lord, still active in the world which he loves.

PRELUDE

Were You There?

African American Spiritual

Cynthia Powell, Interim Organist/Choir Director

Malcolm Couden, Soloist

THE WOMEN AT THE TOMB

THE EASTER GREETING

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Χριστός ἀνέστη! (Khristós Anésti!)

Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! (Alithós Anésti!)

¡Cristo ha resucitado!

¡En verdad ha resucitado!

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

*RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR EASTER DAY

O Christ, in your resurrection, the heavens and the earth rejoice.

Alleluia!

By your resurrection you broke open the gates of hell and destroyed sin and death.

Keep us victorious over sin.

By your resurrection you raised the dead and brought us from death to life.

Guide us in the way of eternal life now.

By your resurrection you confounded your guards and executioners and filled the disciples with joy.

Give us joy in your service and hope for every day.

By your resurrection you proclaimed good news to the women and apostles, and brought salvation to the whole world.

Direct our lives as your new creation.

ANTHEM

O Risen Lord

John M. Neale (1818-66), K. Lee Scott

O risen Lord, O glorious Son, now is the mighty battle won:

Songs of praising we are raising: Alleluia!

On the third morning Christ arose shining in victory over his foes;

Earth is singing, heaven is ringing: Alleluia!

After the death that him befell, Christ our Lord, has harrowed hell;

Singing with gladness, gone is sadness: Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days, let us our hearts and voices raise;

May our living be thanksgiving: Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The dawn of eternity lightens this morning, O Lord,
and we are caught up in the promise of our inclusion
at the reunion feast of the children of God.

**And yet, we readily acknowledge that we fail to live like those
for whom Christ died and rose again.**

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to indifference and death.

**We have essentially silenced the calls for peace and understanding
replacing them instead with self-preservation and isolationism.**

We take so many of our comforts for granted
and fail to recognize the real cost of the blessings we enjoy.

In your mercy, forgive us, Mighty and Loving God.

Help us to learn your ways and trust your power.

Bestow the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit
where we are prisoners of ourselves.

**Let us hear again your gentle words of pardon
and welcome the power that allows us to begin again
and face our new reality. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news.... And let God's people joyfully respond:
Alleluia! Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

GtG #750

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(During this element of worship, please refrain from walking around or touching,
but feel free to turn around and offer a wave, smile, nod, bow, virtual embrace
or any other visual sign that conveys the notion of peace)

RELATING TO THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, whose mighty power raised Jesus from the dead, breaking the grip of death
and dissolving the terror of the grave, scatter the darkness of our minds,

free us from all fear,

and lead us to the comfort of your promise that one day we, too,
shall dwell with Christ in the brightness of your glory.

**Illumine our hearts that we may hear and receive
the good news of the reign of our Savior Jesus Christ.**

Open your Word to our hearts

and our hearts to your Word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EASTER REFRAIN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
(Refrain, first stanza and refrain)

GtG #240

A LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS *Matthew 28:1-10*

p. 33

The Gospel of Our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

EASTER REFRAIN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
(Refrain, second stanza and refrain)

GtG #240

A LESSON FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 10:34-43

p. 129

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

EASTER REFRAIN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
(Refrain, third stanza and refrain)

GtG #240

A LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES

Colossians 3:1-4

p. 201

Holy Wisdom! Holy Word!

Thanks be to God!

EASTER REFRAIN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
(Refrain, fourth stanza and refrain)

GtG #240

HOMILY

Rev. Osy Nüesch

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

(Tithes, gifts, and offerings can be deposited in the offering plate by the main entrance)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess the faith of the universal church.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

**in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*HYMN OF INVITATION

This Is the Feast of Victory

GtG #513

*INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks...

who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

GtG #572

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of glory, fill your church with the power
that flows from Christ's resurrection, that,
in the midst of the sinful world,
it may signal the beginning of a renewed humanity,
risen to new life with Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

TO DEPART TO SERVE

*HYMN OF PARTING

Because You Live, O Christ

GtG #249

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata (Symphony V)

Charles-Marie Widor

Cynthia Powell, Interim Organist/Choir Director

(Please remain seated during the postlude to allow unvaccinated worshippers
and those with other concerns to depart first)



Today's liturgical color is white and will continue through the Great 50 Days of Easter in celebration of Christ's glorious resurrection.

We express our deep appreciation to the many people who have made today and all the observance of this Holy Week and the Triduum so meaningful and God-honoring.

Thank you for sharing yourselves, your skills, your soups and your time so generously.