

Easter 2, April 11, 2021 Order of Worship

Easter Shout of Joy: (repeat 3 times)

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Announcements, Concerns, Joys

Call to Worship, Psalm 133 (Anointing with oil—lots of it!—was a symbol of the extravagant blessing of God. Aaron was the first high priest. Mt. Hermon's dewy moisture falling on Mt. Zion gives extravagant growth.)

P: How very good and pleasant it is,

C: when kindred live together in unity!

P: It is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

C: running down over the collar of his robes.

P: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

C: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

***Confession and Forgiveness** (Some of these words are in our second reading today)

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright* (public domain) LBW 154, ELW 384

*That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light
When, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!*

*All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!*

***The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

***Prayer of the Day** Almighty God, with joy we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

A reading from Acts, the 4th chapter (4:32-35)

All the believers were one in heart and mind. None of them claimed any possessions as their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales, and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who was in need. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

***Hymn of Praise** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (public domain) LBW 128, ELW 369, HP 2027

*Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Al—leluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Al—leluia!
Offer now abounding praise; Al—leluia! As your voices high you raise. Al—leluia!*

*For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al—leluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Al—leluia!
Sing your praises joyfully; Al—leluia! Jesus' death has set you free; Al—leluia!*

*Christians, on this holy day, Al-leluia! All your grateful homage pay; Al-leluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al-leluia! Now he lives, no more to die. Al-leluia!*

A reading from 1st John, the 1st chapter (1:2-2:2)

We proclaim to you the Word of life: this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Hymn of Praise

Come, You Faithful (public domain)

LBW 132, ELW 363, HP 1476

***Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought his chosen ones into joy from sadness,
Comes to gladden faithful hearts which with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection!***

***'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
From his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise undying.***

****Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!***

***Gospel**

John 20:19-31

Before the gospel: ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

After the gospel: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day** *We Walk by Faith* (public domain)
Sing to *Amazing Grace*

words: WoV 675, ELW 635
LBW 448, ELW 779

*We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."*

*We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
But in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord, my God!"*

*Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may your faith abound
To call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.*

***The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN!

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***The Prayers of the Church** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 165, Augsburg Fortress)

Alive in the risen Christ, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear and answer us.

O God, unite your whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide needed moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

All peoples are yours, O God. Direct the nations. Guide all in authority, that they may shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we may provide for the needs of others. Lead us to announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community of St. John/St. Stephen. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we may live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, **Our Father**

Benediction

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** *Thine Is the Glory* (public domain) LBW 145, ELW 376

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.*

Refrain: *Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **Refrain***

***Dismissal**

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Now go in peace and share the good news! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!