



PRELUDE

“Allegretto” from WATER MUSIC

G. F. Handel (1685 – 1750)
arr. S. Drummond Wolff

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day:

When tears are wiped away, shattered hearts are mended, fears are replaced with joy.

This is the day:

When the Lord rolls away the stone of fear, throws off death’s clothes, goes ahead of us into God’s future.

This is the day the Lord has made:

Death has no fear for us, sin has lost its power over us, God opens the tombs of our hearts to fill us with life.

This is the day – Easter Day!

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

****HYMN No. 234, St. 1 & 4**

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke
Jacob’s sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

Neither could the gates of death,
Nor the tomb’s dark portal,
Nor the waters, nor the seal
Hold you as a mortal:
But today, among your own,
You appear, bestowing
Your deep peace, which evermore
Passes human knowing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Emptier of tombs, on this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are. We haven’t done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors. Dazzling God, bring us to life. Where we are tired and

stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us for all the damage we have done – and fill us with the joy of your Spirit.

A moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a table for us; The Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to service. This is the good news: The tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated forever.

On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God’s people – forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

****HYMN No. 233, St. 3**

The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
The round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Trumpet Shall Sound from MESSIAH

G. F. Handel
arr. Hal H. Hopson

AN EASTER PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Astounding God, very early on that first day you caught chaos unawares: planting grace in a garden, setting love loose on creation, flinging joy into the air. Jesus, Sun of Justice, very early on that first day you staggered sin, throwing its weight off the world; you confounded death, leaving it alone in the grave; you opened the gates of the kingdom, so all could follow you into life. Scarred Spirit, very early on this first day of the week, while we were washing sleep from our eyes and trying to make sense of our lives, you sang glad songs to us, rolling away fears from our hearts so we can see the Risen Lord. God in Community, Holy and One, very early on this first day of the week, we lift our prayers to you, using the words that Jesus taught us:

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.

****HYMN No. 238**

Thine is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o’er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

****BENEDICTION**

As you go out into God's world this week, be Easter people! Be those who say, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He is risen." Be ready to be surprised with what God will do next. Look for the risen Christ in those you meet. Let the Holy Spirit nudge and guide you.

The tomb is empty because Jesus is out in the world, and now we must go out into the world too!

May the joy and wonder of that first Easter morning live in your hearts today and every day.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Worthy Is the Lamb" from MESSIAH

G. F. Handel

****Those who are able may stand**

Liturgy by Ruth Burgess from FIRE & BREAD

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram & Susan Jones, Liturgists

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Micki Hardenberg & Alexis Chiappetta, Cantors

James De La Graza (I Trumpet), Curtis Cormier (II Trumpet)

Rob Fournier (I Trombone), Frederico Perez (Bass Trombone)

Jesse Gerbasi, Timpani & Percussion



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