

# Order of Worship

Easter Sunday  
April 9, 2023

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## Call to worship ("Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!")

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Celebrate this day of days!

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Let all creation be amazed!

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ is Risen!**

## Call to confession

The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God's resurrecting power.  
Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace  
of new life through Christ.

## Prayer of confession

Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment  
of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our habits that  
demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior.  
Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.

## Assurance of pardon ("Jesus Christ Is Risen Today")

"Jesus Christ is risen today. But the pains which he endured, our salva-  
tion have procured."

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.

## Prayer for illumination

Divine redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word to-  
day and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts  
us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's  
everlasting hope. Amen.

## Scripture readings

## Sermon



## **Affirmation of faith** (Book of Common Worship)

This is the good news  
which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins  
according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared  
first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

## **Call for the offering**

Give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise of Christ's resurrecting ministry.

## **Prayer of dedication**

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God of glory, overwhelmed by your love, ecstatic with your grace, we shout our hallelujahs, and rejoice this Easter day. Hear our prayers of thanksgiving for the particular gifts of this day:

- A good excuse to dress fancy, in brightly colored Easter outfits;
- The look of delight on a child's face when she finds a plastic egg full of candy;
- Yellow daffodils blooming to trumpet the Gospel's good news;
- Jubilant Easter hymns loudly sung;
- Sanctuaries across the world full of Christ's followers.

Savior God, you free us from death, heal and restore us to life. But the world is still so full of pain and suffering. Hear our prayers for those who struggle, for those whose suffering prevents them from rejoicing with us today. On this Easter day, we especially remember:

- Those who are sick and their caregivers;
- Those who are lonely and isolated;



- Victims of violence, abuse and oppression;
- Refugees and asylum seekers;
- Citizens of warring countries, hungry for peace.

As your people, we gather this Easter Sunday and pray for your continued mercy, O God. Hear and receive our prayers of gratitude and praise, as well as our prayers of intercession. The signs of Easter are miraculous, Holy God. You have the power to make sense of the senseless, to thwart violent means of persecution, to resurrect the dead, and to move massive stones from empty tombs. Ground us in this good news, O God, and keep our feet steady on your path. May we always find reasons to rejoice. May we return to worship you again and again, and to pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, **“Our Father...”**.

### **Charge and benediction** (Book of Common Worship)

Celebrate this day of days!  
Rejoice in God, your Savior!  
Know the new life gifted through Jesus Christ!  
Shout your Alleluia's for all to hear!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
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