

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016

Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiessner, Pastor
Dr. Lonieta Cornwall, Music Director

The Approach to God

PRELUDE

Hand Bell Ensemble

VOTUM

INTROIT

“He Lives” (Insert)

Choir & Congregation

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Jesus our Lord is alive! He has risen from the dead!

Jesus is alive and has risen from the dead!

A remarkable event has taken place, an event unique in history. Jesus, whom once was dead, is now alive!

**Jesus is alive and present here – today – right now – as we
celebrate his resurrection!**

He is in our midst! Let us rejoice! Christ the Lord has risen!

Christ our Lord has risen indeed!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #204**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

***SALUTATION**

EASTER PRAYER

(unison)

Our Father, we thank you for the beauty of this day, for the glorious message that all nature proclaims: the Easter lilies with their waxen throats eloquently singing the good news; the birds so impatient to begin their song; every flowering tree and shrub a living proclamation of your greatness.

Lead us, we ask you, to the grave that is empty, into the garden of the resurrection where we may meet the risen Lord. May we never again live as if we were dead.

In your resurrected presence restore our faith, our hope, and our joy. Grant to our spirits refreshment, rest and peace. O Living Christ, we ask that you go with us wherever we go; be our companion in all that we do. And for this great gift of salvation and eternal life with you we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to your glory and honor. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG OF PRAISE

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, Lord, I love to sing Your praises. I’m so glad You’re in my life. I’m so glad You came to save me. You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift Your name on high.”

PSALM OF PRAISE – Responsive Reading 23 (p. 494 Hymnal)

RECEPTION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *“He is Lord”* Chancel Choir

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN OF PRAISE #208 *“The Day of Resurrection”*

The Easter Story

SCRIPTURE Mark 16:1-8 (page 42 NT)

MEDITATION *“Risen and With Us”*
“The Resurrection”
“Jesus Is the Christ” (reprise)

CONFESSION OF FAITH (from I Corinthians 15)
Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures;
He was buried and raised to life three days later, as written in Scripture;
He appeared to Peter and then to all of the apostles.
Last of all he appeared also to me.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through
Our Lord Jesus Christ!

***CLOSING HYMN #209** *“Thine Is the Glory”*

***BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**
“He Lives” (insert)

***POSTLUDE**
*The congregation may stand.

Many thanks to Dr. Cornwall and members of both choirs for providing us with good music during this Holy Week!