

*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

5 April 2026 – 10:30 AM
EASTER SUNDAY

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand.
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

PRELUDE "Nimrod" from *Enigma Variations, Op.36* Edward Elgar
Vlada Volkova-Moran, organist

PREFACE from the Gospels

***EASTER CALL**

One: Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair.

All: Praise God, who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

One: Praise God, who gathers up the fragments left by human destruction and creates new possibilities.

All: Praise God, who gives us the victory in Jesus Christ.

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

***RESURRECTION RING** (Don't have a bell? There's an app for that!)
Please ring your bell and continue to ring vigorously until the introduction to the hymn.

***HYMN 233 [insert]** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

***INVOCATION**

Here and throughout the service...
Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed!

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

WORD MADE PLAIN children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary Joliene Gatlin

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

One: May the peace of God surround you,

All: Like the trees towering in the forest!

One: May the peace of God warm you all over,

All: Like the sun shining in the sky!

One: May the peace of God rise and roll over you,

All: Like the waves rolling in the sea!

One: May the peace of God fill you,

All: Like the wind stirring in your soul!

One: May the peace of God surround you!

All: [singing] **Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen...** [repeating]

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Tom Postlewaite

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord - and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

ANTHEM

Alleluia

Paul Basler

CHANCEL CHOIR • Cheryl Anderson, director
Jeff Fowler, horn; Chris Salem, percussion

*GOSPEL

Matthew 28:5-10

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

*RESPONSE

South African Hymn

(Masithi:) Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa	(Sing amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God.
(Masithi:) Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa	(Sing amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo,	Amen, amen, amen, amen,
Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa.	Amen, we praise your name, O God.

*GREETING OF PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you

SERMON

Beyond Belief

Pastor Dave

ANTHEM

Praise the Lord

Florence Price

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...concluding with *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus*

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Music

“Christ lag in Todesbanden” BWV 625



J.S. Bach

*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:
to walk together in all God’s ways as the Holy is revealed to us;
to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus’ ministry in this church;
to celebrate through worship God’s amazing gifts of unity and diversity;
to take up Christ’s mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;
to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;
for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

*HYMN 243 [back page]

Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

WEISSE FLAGGEN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

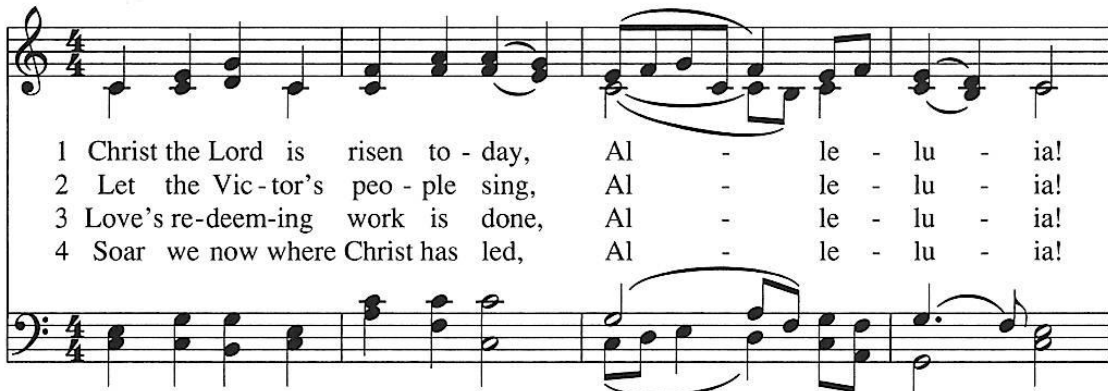
Festal Postlude on “Lasst uns erfreuen”

William Faulkes

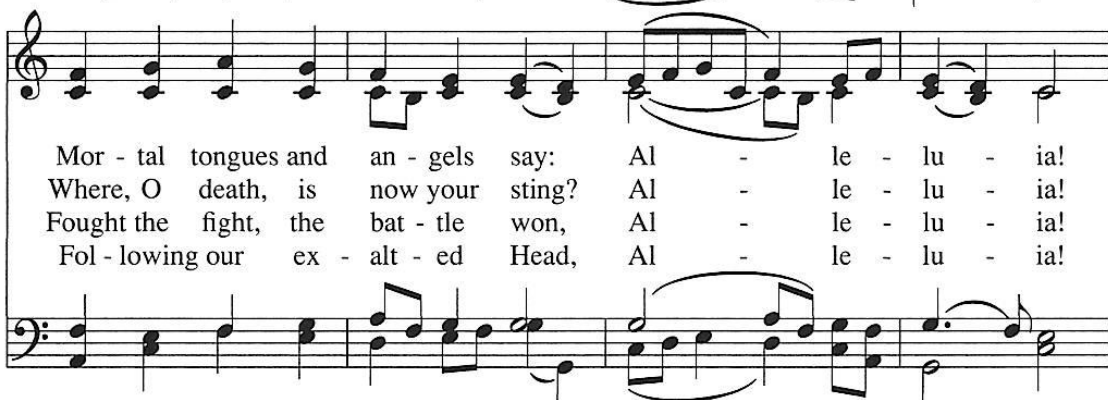
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

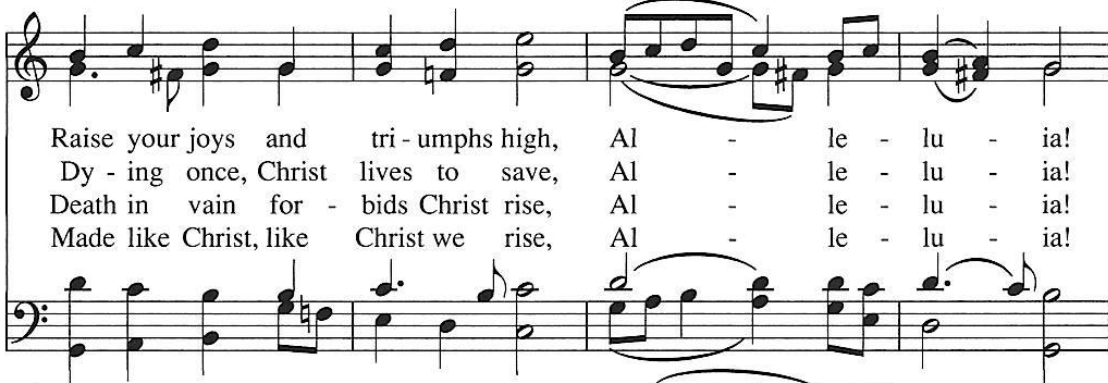
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



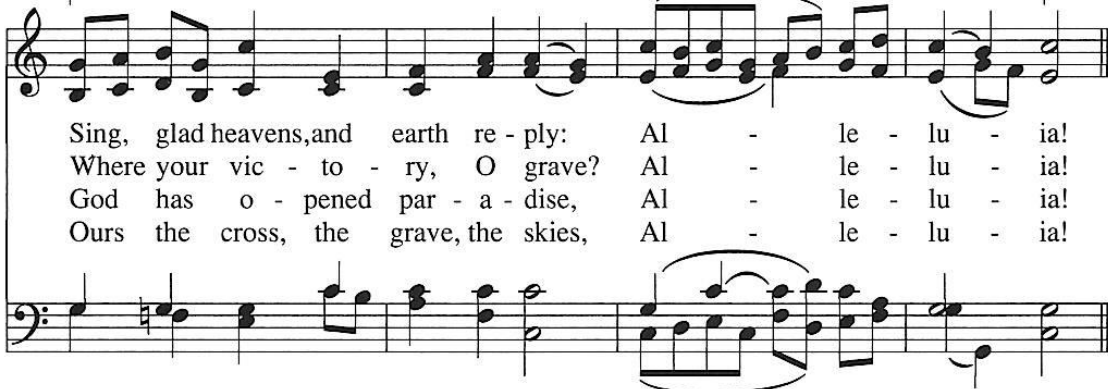
1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



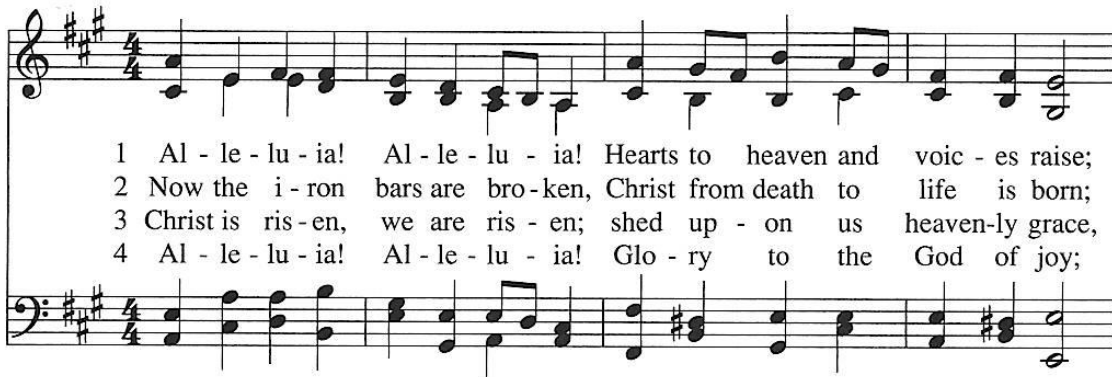
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

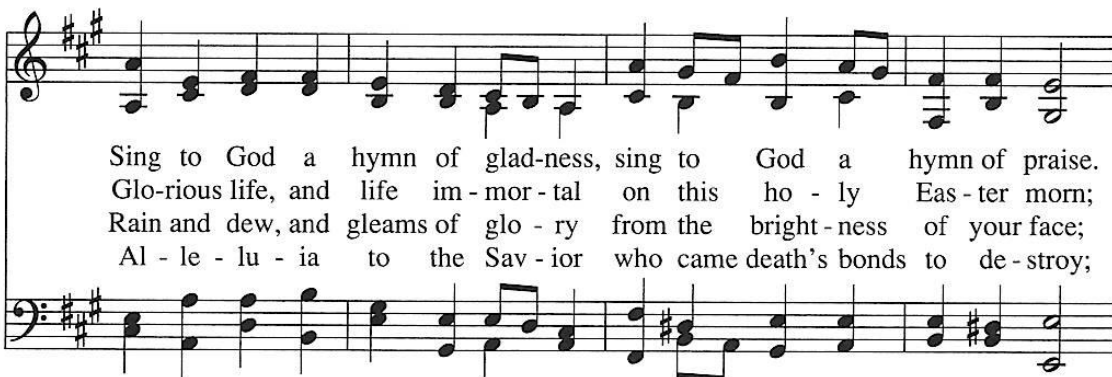
Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

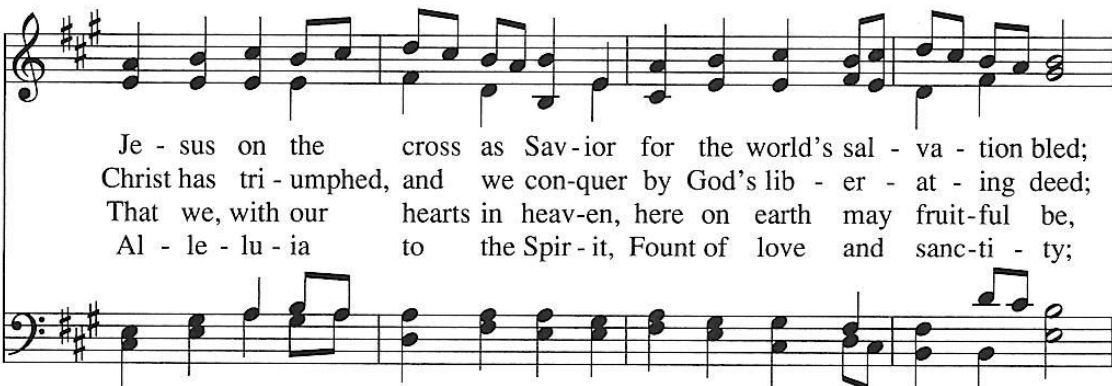
243

*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*


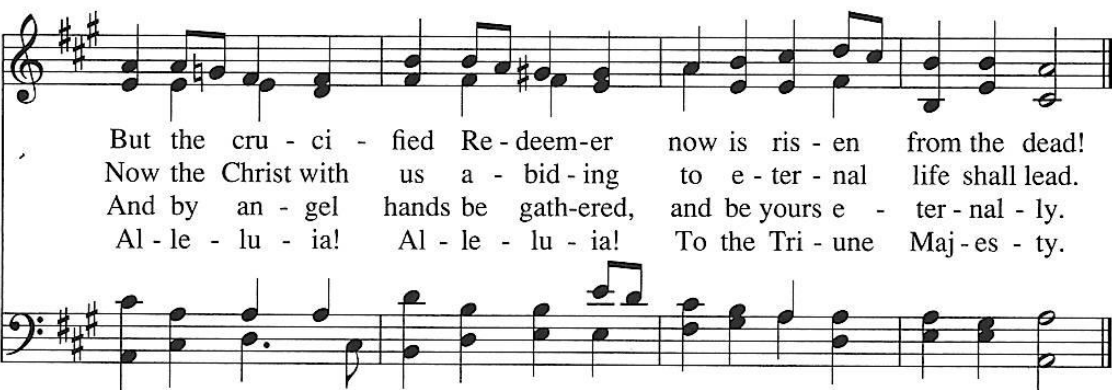
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Tochter Sion, Cologne, 1741
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL