

3 season of resurrection



W elcome

Welcome to St. John's during the season of Easter.

Easter is an event in the life of God and the world after which nothing was the same again. Nothing could be. In Jesus' rising, death was unseated as the end of existence, as the owner of the last word, and as the hardest wall of absolute certainty.

The empty tomb bears witness to a new truth. Now we live in a different world with different rules. Now we stand up. No longer bound by the limited laws dictated by death, we can live according to the terms of resurrection. We speak and sing and see the world with the language and lenses of this deep and destabilizing power that God has revealed in the risen Jesus.

This takes some getting used to, friends.

We need to practice. It's why we celebrate Easter every year, and why we take fifty days—7 Sundays—to do it. We gather Sunday after Sunday to share the news and tell the stories of the ordinary people and extraordinary power that continue to flow from the morning of Jesus' rising.

When we say "Christ is risen!" we don't mean again. We mean still. And this is a claim and a cry we offer a hurting and exhausted world. *Christ is risen still.*

Easter dawns in 2023 still shrouded in the smoke of war. Easter dawns this year on a planet that is still warming and on people who feel unable to slow or stop this creeping catastrophe. It dawns on plants and animals who will enter extinction this year because of human indifference and greed. It dawns on neighbors and neighborhoods who languish beneath and within structures shaped by cruelty and sustained by racism. The feast of Easter calls us to embrace and revel in the reality of resurrection—even as we deal daily with the real and ongoing forces of death at work in our world and in our lives. These are the terms of Resurrection.

—from *Worship Well*, 2022

hallelujah !

Easter brings the return of the "Alleluias" in the service. The word comes from the Hebrew for "praise the Lord." It is a joyous announcement of the Kingdom of Heaven. For weeks we were anticipating the coming of that Kingdom, so we heard instead "Lord, have mercy." Now that it's Easter—and we celebrate the Kingdom made present through Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection—the **Alleluias are back in a big way.**

M inisters

Altar Guild	Megan Nickles and Jane Woods
Sound	Oscar Trevino
Greeter	Doug Ramier
Worship Leader	Debora Smith
Reader	Marlynn Riker
Preacher	Diana Anderson
Intercessor	Jessica Smith
Presider	Susan McEvoy
Communion Server	Laura Greathouse
Communion Server	Steve Nickles
Communion Bread	Charlotte Patrick
Coffee Hour	Cynthia and Martin Garhart

prayer concerns

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Matthew's Cathedral, Laramie; St. Alban's Chapel

Lee & Kelly; Hunter & Charlotte;
Shirley & Deb; Richard & Jennifer;
Tim & Lynnae; Robin & Mark;
Charlie & Jane; Sharon & Steve;
Margie & Josey; Bobbi & Bentley;
Mike & Michelle; Bob & Charlotte;
Ann & Martha; Bennett, Tammy, Rob K.,
Bobby B., Larry, Alex, Irene, Nancy, Alan,
Katy, Marlynn, Sue, Kahli, Ron, Marge

Justin, Ryan, Jacob, Patrick, Reece,
Coleman and Bryce who are serving
in the military.

Josephine DeWitt who resides at
Canyon Creek Care Center and Don
Smith who resides at American
House Assisted Living, Orange City,
FL.

celebrations

Birthday: Kenny Allen—19th, Dorian Vincent Barker—22nd

prelude

“Alleluia,” Eric Whitacre Singers.

hymn *Verses 1-3*



1. Hail the day that sees him rise
 2. There for him high tri-umph waits:
 3. High - est heav'n its Lord re - ceives;
 4. See! he lifts his hands a - bove.
 5. Lord, though part - ed from our sight
 6. There with you we shall re - main,
- Al - le - lu - ia!



1. To his throne be - yond the skies;
 2. Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates;
 3. Yet he loves the earth he leaves;
 4. See! he shows the wounds of love.
 5. Far be - yond the star - ry height,
 6. Share the glo - ry of your reign,
- Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n,
 2. He has con - quered death and sin;
 3. Though re - turn - ing to his throne,
 4. Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow,
 5. Lift our hearts that we may rise
 6. There your face un - cloud - ed view,
- Al - le - lu - ia!



1. En - ters now the high - est heav'n!
 2. Take the King of glo - ry in.
 3. Still he calls the world his own.
 4. Bless - ings on his church be - low.
 5. One with you be - yond the skies:
 6. Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.
- Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: 77 77 with alleluias; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: Robert Williams, 1781–1821.

acclamation

From the darkness of the grave
Christ the Lord is risen today.

Alleluia!

From the triumph that is won
over the power and fear of death:
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia!

Walking from the empty tomb,
opening wide the gates of life:
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia!

Lord of life,
you defeated death to show that we can rise
from all that binds us to the world:
pride, envy, anger, fear,
the debt of sin that holds us here.
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia!

Lord of life,
You defeated death to demonstrate a love that is
beyond our understanding, that reaches out to all.
Saving grace to all who hear.
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia!

Lord of life,
We pray for all who bring your word of life
as a light to those in darkness;
for those who bring your word of peace
to those enslaved by fear;
for those who bring your word of love
to those in need of comfort.
Lord of love and Lord of peace,
Lord of resurrection life,
be known through our lives
and through Your power.
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia!

scripture

We sit.

Holy One, by the power of your Spirit
roll away the stone and reveal to us the Word of Life.

Amen.

A reading from Matthew.

After the reading

Word of God, word of resurrection.

Thanks be to God.

sermon

intercessions

Risen Christ, on the first Easter morning, you appeared in a garden,
showing us that your death and resurrection have implications for all of creation.

As flowers bloom and trees come to life,
as grass springs from the ground and birds signal the morning,
may we rejoice and sing with all living things
that you have overcome death and the grave.

You have risen from the dead, and so will all the earth.

Resurrected God,

Grant us new life.

The Intercessor continues, closing with these words

May we live with courage, knowing that through your death and resurrection,
you have erased the power of the grave, giving hope to all of creation,
and may our lives share your life-giving love with the world. **Amen.**

lord s prayer

We pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

peace

We stand.

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of the Lord.

announcements

offertory

God of hope, you poured out your life and rose from the grave,

Move us, O God, toward love, service, and lives that are open.

Bless the gifts we bring and multiply them

to bring hope to a world in need.

music

“Amabile Alleluia,” Choral Music from Oxford with The Swingles.

T he great thanksgiving

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God, we give you thanks and praise,

for on this day creation sings,

Christ is risen from the dead!

He has burst forth from the tomb

to break the tangles of despair and death.

Love is come again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices

with the eternal chorus of rejoicing who forever sing:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,

God of power, Giver of life,

heaven and earth declare your splendor.

Praise, glory, and love are yours.

All-embracing God, we give thanks for Jesus, the risen Lord of life,

who rose victorious from the grave and made the whole creation new.

He broke bread with sinners, fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed,

then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us

our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks,

he gave it to them and said,

Drink this all of you: This is my blood poured out for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit upon the whole earth, that we may proclaim good news to all the world and rise together as children of your new creation. Then bring us to that new heaven here on earth, O God, where death and pain are no more and you dwell with us forever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you eternally in songs of pure unbounded praise. **Amen.**

The leader breaks the bread. Silence is kept.

The risen Christ is our host, and he bids us come and celebrate the feast, to know the power of resurrection, the joy of heaven, the glory of God's grace.

We come to the table for the gifts of God.

communion

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first. Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right. You may receive only bread, only wine, or both. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

Receiving the bread and wine is the central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.

music

“Alleluia,” Kyiv Chamber Choir - Yakiv Yatsynevych.

“Alleluia,” Shantala.

“Alleluia,” Tore Morten Andreassen.

prayer of thanks

We stand.

Holy, gracious God,

here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

We have rested in the depth of your love;

We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.

Together, at this table, you have offered us life.

Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.

And we give you thanks. Amen.

hymn *Verses, 1, 2, 4*



1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - umphant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n-ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise him, now his might con - fess, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, Al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: St. 1, *Surrexit Christus hodie*, Latin, 14th C.; para. in *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; st. 2, 3, *The Compleat Psalmist*, c.1750, alt.; st. 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
TUNE: EASTER HYMN, 77 77 with alleluias; *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

sending

Lift up your heads, Beloved.
Christ Jesus has opened your graves.
Walk in freedom and life.
Go out in peace.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

postlude

“Hallelujah (Psalm 148),” Rain for Roots (feat. Flo Paris).

sources

Acclamation

Adapted from “Prayers on a Theme of Easter” by John Birch, a Methodist lay preacher and worship leader from Wales.

Intercessions

Adapted by Susan McEvoy and Diana Anderson from “Terms of Resurrection,” by Worship Well, Easter, 2022.

Confession, Offertory, and Sending

Adapted from “Terms of Resurrection,” by Worship Well, Easter, 2022.

Great Thanksgiving

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Prayer of Thanks

Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith blog, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>