

**Easter Sunday  
March 31, 2024**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude** *Christ Arose*  
*String Quartet—Bert Bellano, Jennifer Fleeger,  
Monica Zheng, Lia Delpino*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** *(Time for Silent Preparation)*

**! Call to Worship** *(Responsively)* *Dan Obenschain*

God of life,  
we praise you for the miracle of Easter.  
We pray for great joy for ourselves and for all who come  
to worship today to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.  
We pray especially for those who will join us for worship  
and whose lives are filled with pain, loss, or deep sadness.  
May they sense how the resurrection is a source of great hope. **Amen.**

**! Invocation** *Dan Obenschain*

**Glory to you, O God:**  
On this day you won victory over death,  
raising Jesus from the grave  
and giving us eternal life.  
**Glory to you, O Christ:**  
For us and for our salvation you overcame death  
and opened the gate to everlasting life.  
**Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:**  
You lead us into the truth.  
**Glory to you, O blessed Trinity,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**! Hymn 217** *Christ, The Lord is Risen Today*

**Confessing**  
*God invites us to be honest with Him*

**Call to Confession** *Dan Obenschain*

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows

bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Dan Obenschain*

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Time for Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

*Dan Obenschain*

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”  
“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”  
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NRSV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **🕯 Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*

### **Offering**

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

### **Invitation**

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart.  
**Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory

*Adante*  
*(Flute and String Quartet)*

*Mozart*

### ! Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

### ! Prayer of Dedication

Living God, you have given us so much in Jesus Christ: hope, joy, and peace. Above all, you have given us life! What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough. What little we have we humbly offer to you. Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you. **Amen.**

### ! Hymn 225

*Worship Christ, the Risen King*

## **Proclaiming** **God speaks to us through His Word**

### Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

**24** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. <sup>5</sup> So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground.

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men. <sup>6</sup> “He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> saying, ‘It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?’” <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup> Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women. <sup>12</sup> Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths. So he went away, amazed at what had happened.

### Sermon

*“The Resurrection”*  
*Rev. Tim Latham*

 Praise Song

*In Christ Alone*

*In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone—who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For every sin on Him was laid.  
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no schemes of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

**Responding**  
***We respond to God's Word***

 Profession of Faith

**This is the good news that we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:  
Christ died for our sins, was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,**

**in whom all things hold together,  
in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell  
by the power of the Spirit.  
Christ is the head of the body, the church,  
and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God.  
Amen.**

—based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Colossians 1:15-20

### **Prayers of the People** *(Responsively)*

Risen and reigning Lord,  
truly you are a high priest  
who has passed through the heavens.  
Truly you were tested as we are,  
and yet were without sin.  
With boldness we approach your throne,  
deeply assured of your mercy and grace  
in our time of need.  
And so we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
Your rising and your reigning  
give hope to your people.  
May all who live without hope today  
taste and see that you are good.  
So we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
Your rising and your reigning call us, your people,  
to testify to your goodness.  
Equip each of us today  
to be bold witnesses of Easter news.  
So we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
Your rising and your reigning  
call all the nations of the world  
to stop their scheming and seek your peace.  
May your Spirit convict all people  
to submit to your rule and to pursue true peace.  
So we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
Your rising and your reigning  
call each of us to turn from the path of death  
to the path of obedience and life.  
Send your Spirit to strengthen our resolve,  
and help us to live as people of life and light.  
So we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
Your rising and your reigning  
bring life and light and healing.  
May all who suffer in the valley of the shadow of death and disease  
know your healing presence.  
So we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
Your rising and your reigning  
are firstfruits of all that is to come:  
justice, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit.  
May your kingdom come quickly.  
So we pray, **O Lord of glory.**  
May we, your Easter people,  
never fail to bless and thank you  
for your immeasurable love and sure promises.


All praise to you, risen Christ,  
who with the Father and the Spirit lives  
in perfect communion forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Commissioning**

***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***

 **Hymn 213**      *Because He Lives*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**      *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*      *String Quartet*