



Date: April 4, 2021 Theme Easter Sunday: Believe!

God's People Gather

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Early on the morning of the first day, Mary Magdalen went to the tomb, and discovered that it was empty. She ran to tell the others: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Now we gather to meet this risen Lord, and to declare the good news: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: This we know and this we believe: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

ALL: Let us worship God!

Opening Song

Easter medley

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;

Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, O God of new mornings, that we have not entirely believed in the resurrection. We want to believe, we really do. But it seems the idle tale of foolish people. So we live as if it is not true; we act as if Jesus Christ is a dead hero from twenty centuries back. Forgive us! Help us to live as people who have been brought back from death; make us people who celebrate resurrection in our hearts, our minds, and our actions. Transform us to be those who demonstrate the joyful life we have found in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let our lives show that we truly do believe. Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon (Acts 10:43)

Leader: Believe the good news! "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name!" In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Choir Anthem

Scripture and Sermon

Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God!

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Leader: It is right and holy to sing our songs of praise this Easter morning, most Holy God, for you have created us, breathing the breath of life into us. You made covenant with your people in the desert, speaking to Moses from the burning bush; speaking your being with the words, "I AM." And because you are a living God, we sing out in joy to you!

**People: (singing) Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name!**

Leader: In the wilderness the people cried out to you for bread, and in the darkness, the people called out for a light. In our foolishness, we have wandered like lost sheep, and in our pride we have cut ourselves off from you. But you sent the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, the true vine. So we join with all the angels and that great communion of saints, singing in praise to you:

**People: (singing) Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name!**

Leader: Pour out your Spirit, Living God, upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be indeed the body and blood of your son, our savior, and that they may strengthen and sustain your church, so that we may forever sing of your glory:

**People: (singing) Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name!**

Leader: Because we believe, and because we trust your great love for us, O God, we bring to you our prayers, asking for your Spirit to be poured out upon this world. Help us to believe where we have not seen, and to live and act in ways that bring glory to you: supporting the weak, caring for the downtrodden, speaking for the voiceless, bringing food and drink to those who are hungry and thirsty, standing up for justice and walking alongside those who do your work. We pray also, Holy One, for your healing presence for those who suffer, and for courage who all who seek your wisdom

and do your work. We offer up the prayers of hearts (silence) in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying,

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: And let all God's people say:

People: AMEN

Words of Institution

Sharing in the Bread and the Cup

Prayer After the Supper

You have sent us the way, the truth and the life, O God. In Jesus, we know resurrection, and life. Let our lives be witnesses to your grace and glory, that we may boldly answer your call, saying "Here I am, Lord. Send me." We pray in the name of our risen Lord. Amen.

**People: (singing) Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name!**

Responding to God's Word

Offering

If you are able, please continue to send in your offering and pledge. If you are enrolled in electronic funds transfer, there is no need to do anything different. If you would like to give online using Paypal, click this link: bit.ly/FPCsterling

Prayer of Dedication

Living God, these gifts we bring belong to you. Take them and use them to bring new life to your world. Make us Easter people, who live resurrected lives for your glory, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

God's People are Sent

Closing Song

My Redeemer Lives!

I know He rescued my soul,
His blood, He covered my sin,
I believe, I believe.

My shame, He's taken away,
My pain is healed in His name,
I believe, I believe.

I'll raise a banner;
My Lord has conquered the grave!

My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!

I know He rescued my soul,
His blood, He covered my sin,
I believe, I believe.

My shame, He's taken away,
My pain is healed in His name,
I believe, I believe.

I'll raise a banner;
My Lord has conquered the grave!

My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!

You lift my burden,
I rise with You.
I'm dancing on this mountain top
To see Your kingdom come.

My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!
My Redeemer lives!

Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!