



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

GATHERING PRAYER

I bind this day to me forever, by power of faith, Christ's incarnation; his baptism in the Jordan River; his death on the cross for my salvation. His bursting from the spiced tomb; his riding up the heavenly way; his coming at the day of doom I bind unto myself today.

Christ be with us, Christ within us, Christ to comfort and restore us.

May your salvation, O Lord, be ours this day and forevermore!

-Patrick of Ireland

PROLOGUE

The First Easter

John 20: 1, 11–18

PRELUDE

Marche Triomphale

Siegfried Karg-Elert (1877–1933)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 232**Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

Tune: LYRA DAVIDICA

**1. *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our Triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!***

**3. *But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!***

**2. *Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!***

**4. *Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

CALL to CONFESSION

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (UNISON)

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

SUNG RESPONSE**The Strife is O'er**

Tune: VICTORY

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done
the victory of life is won
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 35:8–10

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:50–58

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "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. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Be Steadfast**

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

HYMN OF RESPONSE, No. 238**Thine Is the Glory**

Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS

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| <p>1. <i>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 graveclothes where thy body lay. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.</i></p> |
| <p>2. <i>Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.</i></p> | |

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, PETITION AND INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Thank you, generous God, for the material blessings that you have given us. We give you back some of these gifts with grateful hearts, knowing that you will use them to bless your world.
In Christ's name.

All: Amen.

OFFERTORY

Sinfonia

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

To give online: firstchurchlf.org/give

DOXOLOGY

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God all crea-tures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven-ly
host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING, No. 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Tune: DIADEMATA

1. *Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!*

*Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.*

2. *Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:*

*no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.*

3. *Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.*

*His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.*

4. *Crown him the Lord of years;
the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.*

*All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Strife is O'er

Tune: VICTORY

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst.*

Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah" from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel (1685–1759)

Please sing along with joy from your homes!

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

*The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ
and he shall reign for ever and ever King of Kings and Lord of Lords!*