

WORSHIP SERVICE

April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE CHRIST'S VICTORY

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

- * Opening Song "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Lift Up Your Hearts #182

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!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!

Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!

- * Opening Prayer

WE CELEBRATE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

The Scriptural Teaching Regarding Baptism

Baptism of Elizabeth Sharon Hobson

- * Baptismal Hymn: "Baptized in Water"

Lift Up Your Hearts #790

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one Father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

WE HEAR THE EASTER STORY

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24: 13-35

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15** As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; **16** but they were kept from recognizing him. **17** He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" **19** "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. **20** The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; **21** but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **22** In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning **23** but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. **24** Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." **25** He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. **28** As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. **29** But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. **32** They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" **33** They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together **34** and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." **35** Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Message: "Were Not Our Hearts Burning with Us?"

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF CHRIST

* Song of Response: "Come to Us, Beloved Stranger"

Lift Up Your Hearts #207

Come to us, beloved Stranger, as you came that Easter day.

Walk with us to our Emmaus, for we need you still today.

Come to us when we are broken, when our dearest hopes are lost,

Speak to us the prophets' message you fulfilled upon the cross.

Stay with us and give us blessing, that our hopes again may rise.
Offer us your broken body; open our unseeing eyes.
Come to us, God's love embodied; touch our hearts with burning flame.
Risen Christ, once dead, now living, come to us through joy, through pain.
We would never fail to see you as you walk with us each day.
As a friend and not a stranger you would join us on our way.
Help us trust that through your mercy we can doubt and fear transcend,
and to others be a blessing. Keep us faithful till life's end.

Congregational Prayer

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE THE RISEN KING

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "See, What a Morning"

Lift Up Your Hearts #181

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ the Man, for he lives:
Christ is risen from the dead.

See Mary weeping, "Where is he laid? –
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, speaking life,
stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound 'till he appears for he lives:
Christ is risen from the dead.

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority.
And we are raised with him; death is dead,
love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with him, for he lives:
Christ is risen from the dead.

* Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Tom Niehof

Worship leader: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend and Char Verkade