

A Service for the Worship of God
Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION

- *Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.*
- *If you have any children, you may want to print out an enlarged version of the picture that is shown under “Children’s Time” in the bulletin, or just be sure you have it where they can see it.*

Gathering Around God’s Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Laura Nile

Call to Worship

One: We are grateful that you travel the long road with us, Lord:

All: the road between fear and hope,

*One: the road between the place where all is lost
and the place of resurrection.*

**All: Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,
we are in need of your company!**

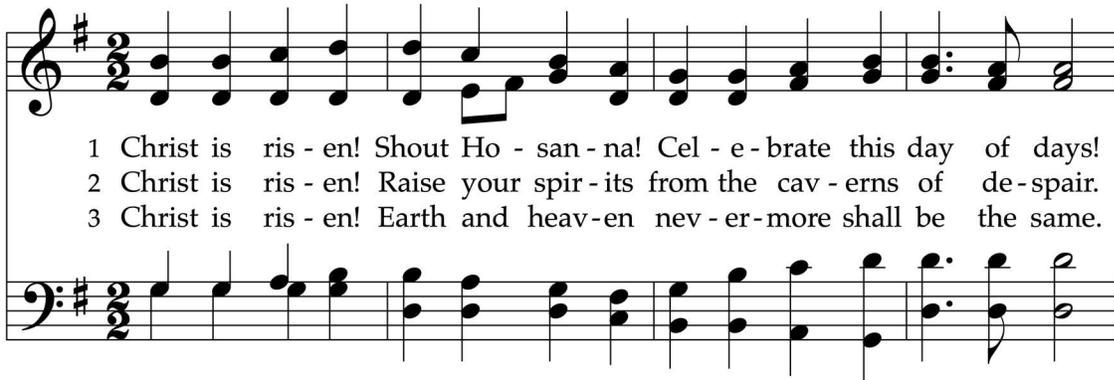
One: Touch us with your Spirit

All: and open our eyes to the power of your love
One: so that we might eagerly share with others
the hope you offer us along life's journey. Amen.

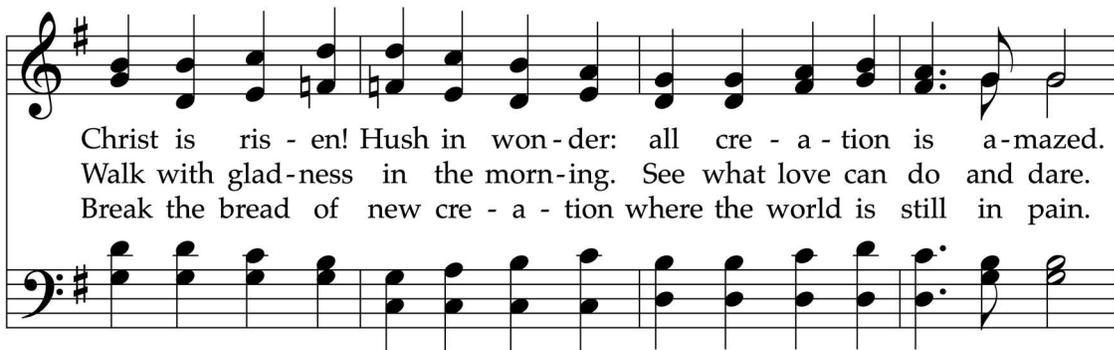
Hymn #248

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

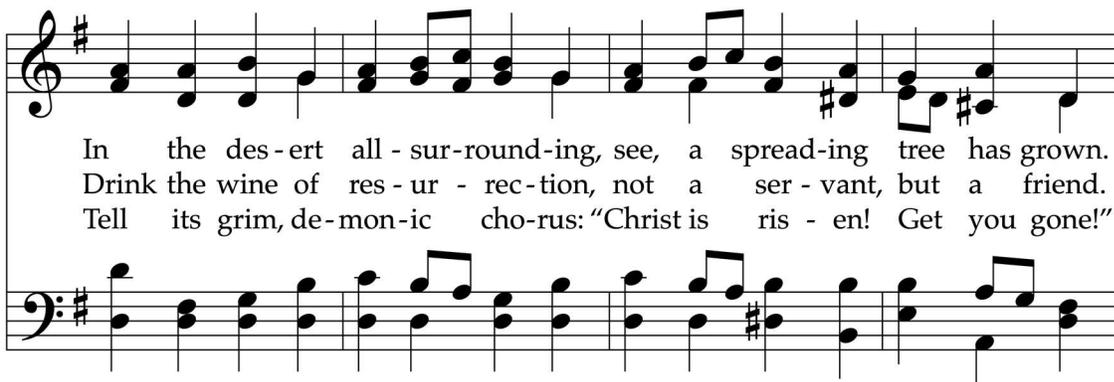
verses 1 and 2



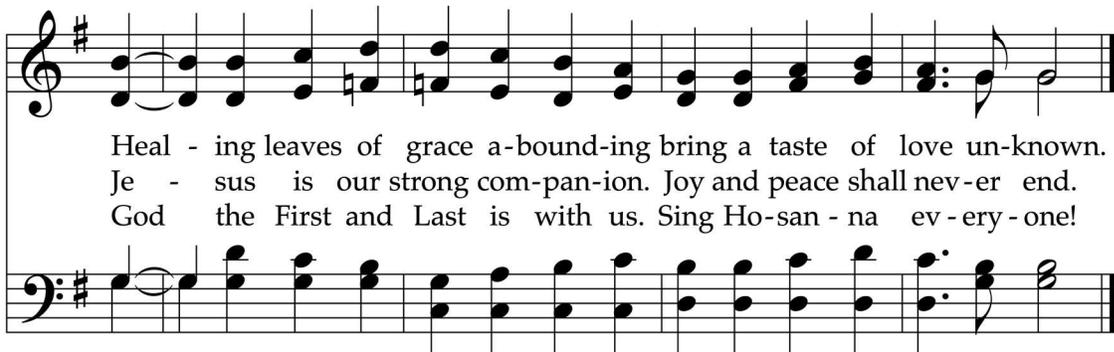
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: “Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!”



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

Prayer of Adoration and Praise (In Unison)

(from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder)

Lord of such amazing surprises as put
a catch in my breath and wings on my heart,
I PRAISE YOU

for joy too great for words,
but not for tears and songs and sharing;
for this mercy that blots out my betrayals
and bids me begin again;
for this “YES” to life and laughter,
for this kingdom unleashed in me and I in it forever,
and no dead ends
to growing, to choices, to chances, to calls to be just;
no dead ends
to living, to making peace, to dreaming dreams,
to being glad of heart;
for this resurrection madness
which is wiser than I
and in which I see how great you are, how full of grace.

Alleluia! Amen.

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.
Je - sus we praise you as Lord; All of the earth gives you
glo - ry for your ma - jes - ty — fills the hea - ven, fills the earth.

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Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Laura Nile

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-27

Rev. Laura Nile and Ruth Whatley

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Anthem

Jesus the Very Thought of Thee" -
Ruth Whatley, soloist

John Bacchus Dykes

Children's Time

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong



Scripture Reading

Luke 24:28-35

Ruth Whatley and Rev. Laura Nile

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Responding to God’s Word

*Hymn # 252

“Day of Arising”

(omit verse 3)

Capo 1: (Esus) (E) (B) (E)
 Fsus F C F

1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un - known com -
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ’s
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -

(Amaj7) (F#m7) (B7) (Esus) (E)
 Bbmaj7 Gm7 C7 Fsus F

pan - ion walks with his own. When they in - vite him,
 sad - ness, slow - ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us,
 prom - ise, this is Christ’s sign: when the church gath - ers,
 pas - sion, o - pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion,

(B) (E) (Amaj7) (B7) (E)
 C F Bbmaj7 C7 F

as fades the first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
 ev - er a - wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
 when bread is bro - ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.
 set all hearts burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Presentation of Offerings

If you would like to give online, please go to www.sminster.com/give where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church.

***Presentation Hymn #240** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” *(refrain and verse 4)*

All Sing Refrain twice: **Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

Ruth sings verse 4 alone: *Come let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior.*

All sing Refrain: **Alleluia, alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Rev. Laura Nile

Prayers of the People 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.

***Hymn #246**

“Christ is Alive”

verses 1, 2, and 5

music on next page

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**