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## Order of Worship

March 31, 2024

### Reflection

The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it.

- N.T. Wright

### Prelude

*As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.*

### Call To Worship

*Revelation 5*

Leader: Come, let us worship our risen Lord together!

**People: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### Song

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your voice and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!

Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy 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 Thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

### Prayer of Adoration

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who joyfully celebrate Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Affirmation of Faith

*1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Romans 1:16-17*

Minister: What is the Gospel we preach, that which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved?

**All: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.**

**We are not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”**

Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. Yet, we confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We confess that we have not bowed before Jesus or acknowledged His rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give Him glory. We confess that we overlook those Jesus sought—the poor, the hungry and those who mourn. Our ears are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy! Lord, revive us! Bring new, resurrection life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hardhearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom that comes from the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Private Confession

Song

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss,  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One,  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that left Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything

No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

Words of Pardon and Comfort *1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

O death, where is your victory? O death, where 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.

Song

*Christ Arose*

Low in the grave He lay; Jesus my Savior  
Waiting the coming day; Jesus my Lord

Chorus:

Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign  
He arose, He arose  
Hallelujah, Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed Jesus my Savior  
Vainly they seal the dead Jesus my Lord (Chorus)  
Death cannot keep his prey Jesus my Savior

He tore the bars away Jesus my Lord (Chorus)

*(Children through Kindergarten are dismissed for Children's Church; they will return for Communion.)*

Prayer of Intercession *Concluded by 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.**

High Desert Highlights

*See 'Church Life' on page 16*

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*If you have a financial gift, you may place it in the offering plate, located on the information table. Donations can also be given electronically; see [highdesertpca.com](http://highdesertpca.com) for more information.*

Scripture

*1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 50-58*

Sermon

*Rev. Dan Rose*

*"Of First Importance"*

Song

*Resurrection Hymn*

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 pow'r 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!

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord's Supper (also called Communion or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat the bread and drink the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate.*

*If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer (see Prayers on page 15) and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ.*

*We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Gluten-free bread is also available.*

## Words of Institution

### Memorial Acclamation

Minister: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.



Song

*Christ is Risen*

Let no one caught in sin  
Remain inside the lie of inward shame,  
But fix our eyes upon the cross,  
And run to Him who showed great love  
And bled for us,  
Freely You've bled for us.

Chorus:

Christ is risen from the dead,  
Trampling over death by death  
Come awake, come awake,  
Come and rise up from the grave.  
Christ is risen from the dead,  
We are one with Him again  
Come awake, come awake,  
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin,  
You bowed to none but heaven's will;  
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,  
No burden great can hold You down.  
In strength You reign;  
Forever let Your church proclaim. (Chorus)

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light;  
The glory of God has defeated the night.

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light;  
Our God is not dead  
He's alive, He's alive! (Chorus)

Song

*Death Was Arrested*

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin  
Lost without hope with no place to begin  
Your love made a way to let mercy come in  
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed, only beauty remains  
My orphan heart was given a name  
My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance  
When death was arrested and my life began

Chorus:

Oh, Your grace, so free, washes over me  
You have made me new, now life begins with You  
It's Your endless love pouring down on us  
You have made us new, now life begins with You

Released from my chains, I'm a prisoner no more  
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore  
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend  
When death was arrested and my life began (Chorus)

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross

Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost  
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand  
That's when death was arrested and my life began (Chorus)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We thank you, O God, that through Word and sacrament you  
have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and  
food of eternal life.**

**Strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our  
thanks, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Song

*Living Hope*

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever

Jesus Christ, my living hope

Chorus:

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!

Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!

You have broken every chain

There's salvation in Your name

Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise

Your buried body began to breathe

Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion

Declared the grave has no claim on me (Repeat)

Jesus, Yours is the victory! (Chorus)

Jesus Christ, my living hope

Oh God, You are my living hope

Benediction

Postlude

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## Prayers

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin:* Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.