

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Resurrection of the Lord – April 20, 2025
Responsive Call to Worship – Easter Liturgy



Easter

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: Words of faith's story help celebrate this day
of resurrection:

**All: God creates a new heaven and a new earth,
be glad and rejoice!**

One: God's steadfast love endures forever;
the Lord has become our salvation.

**All: The stone was rolled away—he is not here,
he is risen.**

One: We say with joy: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Hymn 247 Christ the Lord is risen today

1. Christ the Lord is risen today,

all creation join to say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply.
Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo! our sun's eclipse is o'er;
lo! he sets in blood no more.

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ hath opened paradise.
Lives again our glorious King:
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
where thy victory, O grave?

3. Soar we now where Christ hath led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
Hail! the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given;
every knee to thee shall bow,
risen Christ triumphant now.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Prayer of Confession *(congregation)*

Loving and life-giving God, you raised Jesus from the grave and shattered the powers of sin and death. But we confess that we remain captive to fear, resisting the hope that new life is possible for us. We hide in tombs of indifference, seeking comfort rather than justice in this world. We cling to resentment and disappointment, refusing the freedom that comes with forgiveness. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to joy and wholeness through your great mercy.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer *(Debts/Debtors)*

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, the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness (minister)

Hymn 249 The day of resurrection

**1. The day of resurrection: earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**3. Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
invisible and visible, their notes together blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 p. 565 NT & Psalms

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

²**Let all Israel repeat:**

"His faithful love endures forever."

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song;

he has given me victory.

¹⁵**Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly.**

The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

¹⁶The strong right arm of the Lord is raised in triumph.

The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

¹⁷**I will not die; instead, I will live**

to tell what the Lord has done.

¹⁸The Lord has punished me severely,

but he did not let me die.

**¹⁹Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,
and I will go in and thank the Lord.**

²⁰These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,
and the godly enter there.

**²¹I thank you for answering my prayer
and giving me victory!**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.

**²³This is the Lord's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.**

**²⁴This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 65:17-25

p. 610 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

p. 303 NT & Psalms

John 20:1-18

p. 197 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **What a day!**

Prayers of the People *(minister)*

Hymn 243 Jesus Christ is risen today

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

**2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save, hallelujah!**

**3. But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing, hallelujah!**

4. Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!

**praise eternal as his love; hallelujah!
praise him, all ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!**

Offering & Offertory

Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

Generous God, we come before you with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ Jesus. Bless these gifts so that they may spread the hope and joy we feel this day to those who have not yet tasted your kindness. With our gifts, we offer ourselves to you in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Communion Hymn 537 'Twas on that night

- 1. 'Twas on that night when doomed to know
the eager rage of every foe,
that night in which he was betrayed,
the Savior of the world took bread,**
- 2. and after thanks and glory given
to God who rules in earth and heaven,
that symbol of his flesh he broke,
and thus to all his followers spoke:**
- 3. "My broken body thus I give
for you, for all; take, eat, and live;
and oft the sacred rite renew
that brings my wondrous love to view."**
- 4. Then in his hands the cup he raised,
and God anew he thanked and praised;
the fullness of God's grace he showed
and from his lips salvation flowed.**
- 5. "My blood I thus pour forth," he cries,**

**“to cleanse the soul in sin that lies;
in this the covenant is sealed,
and heaven’s eternal grace revealed.”**

**6. “With suffering love this cup is given;
let all partake the wine of heaven,
and when you gather, let it pour,
in living memory of this hour.”**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy One, on this joyful Easter day, we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love, for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so, we join our voices with all your creatures high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement, even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, you will not let us go. You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You have spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and cup, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere. In anticipation of receiving these gifts, we proclaim our faith and our hope as we say:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and cup. May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and cup become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Lord Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, Creator and Sustainer of all. Glory to you forever and ever.

Distribution

The Breaking of the Bread

The Pouring of the Cup

The Revelation

Partaking of the Bread

Partaking of the Cup

Prayer after Holy Communion (*Unison*)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 255 Now let the vault of heaven resound

**1. Now let the vault of heaven resound
in praise of love that doth abound,
'Christ hath triumphed, hallelujah!
sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,
repeat their song of glory here,
"Christ hath triumphed, Christ hath triumphed!"
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**2. Eternal is the gift he brings;
wherefore our heart with rapture sings,
"Christ hath triumphed, Jesus liveth!"**

now doth he come and give us life;
now doth his presence still all strife
through his triumph; Jesus reigneth!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3. Oh fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above,
that we conquer through thy triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day,
that by our life we ever say,
"Christ hath triumphed, and he liveth!"
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. Adoring praises now we bring,
and with the heavenly blessed sing,
"Christ hath triumphed, hallelujah!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
thine the glory never ending!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Choral Blessing

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude