

Sunday, April 5th, 2026
Easter Sunday

Prelude

Easter Proclamation

Christ has risen!

Christ has risen indeed!

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Christ is Arisen” by Hans Leo Hassler

Contributors: Hans Leo Hassler; arr. Elwood Coggin © 1973 Elkan-Vogel, Inc. Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved

Call to Worship

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

***Hymn**

“Because You Live, O Christ”

New Century Hymnal #231

Contributors: Shirley Erena Murray © 1987, Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story. All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you. So, like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you. Amen.

Anthem

“Hallelujah Chorus” by George F. Handel, arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz

Contributors: George F Handel; arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz © 1949 Lorenz Publishing Company/Lorenz Corporation (admin. By Music Services). Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Communion

Sharing the Elements (*We will share the bread and juice together*)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray, amen.

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Bill Harvey

***Hymn**

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

New Century Hymnal #238

Contributors: Words: John M. C. Crum; Harm. Martin F Shaw. Words and Harmonization © 1928, Oxford University Press. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Sermon

“The Good News is... Alive in the World!”

Rev. Abby Gackenheimer

Music of Reflection

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Prayer Response

“Hear Our Prayer”

by H.M. Teasdale

© public domain. 1907 W.H. Willis & Co

Call to Offering

Offertory

****Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal #515 *[alternative words]***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God, we offer you these gifts, and pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

***Hymn**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

New Century Hymnal #233

Contributors: Words Charles Wesley, 1739; Tune: Easter Hymn arr. from Lyra Davidica, 1708. Word alt. © 1992, The Pilgrim Press. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Benediction

Benediction Response

“Go Now In Peace” by Don Besig

Contributors: Don Besig and Nancy Price © 1988 by Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc. Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Postlude

Worship Liturgy: by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.” Tell Me Something Good

Because You Live, O Christ

Luke 24:1-10

Shirley Erena Murray, 1987

1 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the
 2 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the spir - it bird of
 3 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the rain - bow of your

world has come to flow - er, the shad - ows of the tomb
 hope is freed for fly - ing, our ca - ges of de - spair
 peace will span cre - a - tion, the col - ors of your love

are flood - ed with your res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
 no long - er keep us closed and life - de - ny - ing.
 will draw all hu - man - kind to ad - o - ra - tion.

The stone has rolled a - way and death can - not im - pris - on! O

sing this Eas - ter Day, for Je - sus Christ has ris - en, has

ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en!

Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57–28:7; Luke 23:50–24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

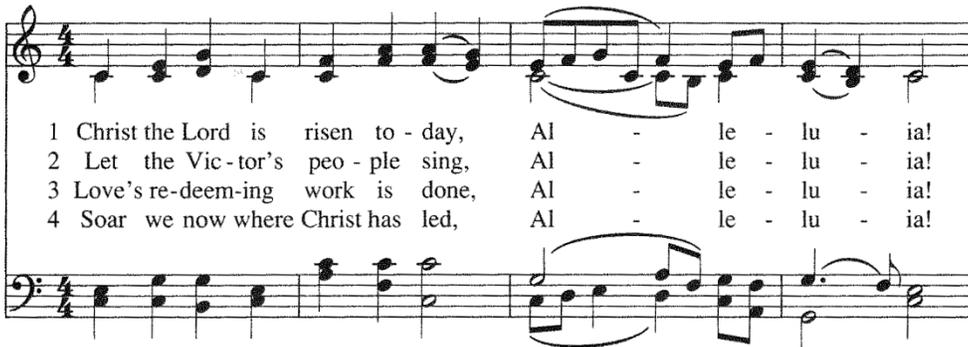
John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
 French noel, 15th century
 Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

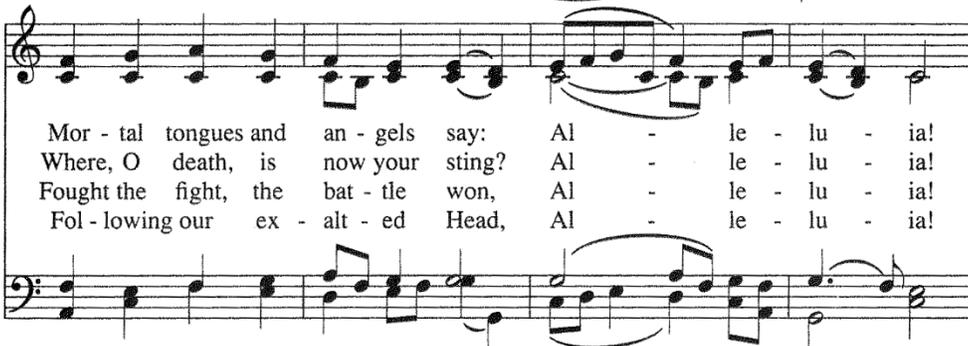
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



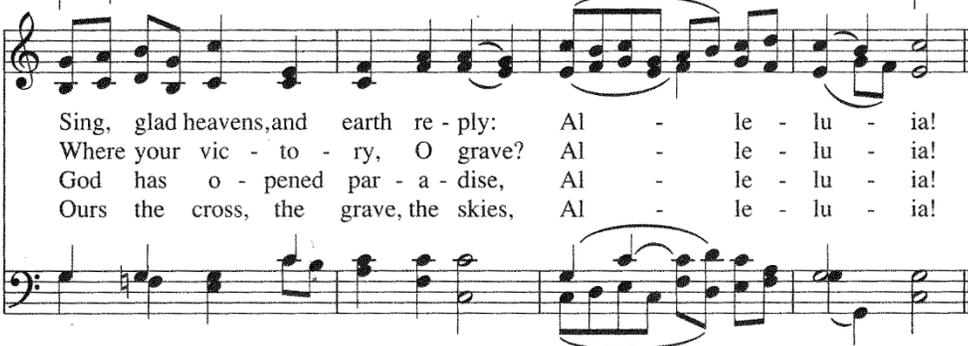
1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708