

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Resurrection of the Lord

EASTER DAY

March 23, 2008

8:30 and 11:00 am

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“The Strife is O’er”

Hal. H. Hopson, arr.

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalm 118*)

Give thanks to the Lord, Who is good,
Whose mercy endures forever. Let Israel now proclaim,
The mercy of the Lord endures forever.
The Lord is my strength and my song and has become my salvation.
There is a sound of exaltation and victory in the tents of the righteous.
The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed!

The Prayer of Praise

*The Hymn 123

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Who is in a position to condemn?
**Only Christ! And Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.**
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*The Gloria Patria

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The New Testament Lesson: *Acts 10:34-43*

p. 157 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalm 118:1-2,14-24*

p. 694 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

“Light’s Glittering Morn Bedecks the Sky”
John LeFebre, baritone

Horatio W. Parker

The Epistle Lesson: *Colossians 3:1-4*

p. 246 in the pew Bible

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 106

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

The Gospel Lesson: *John 20:1-18*

p. 140 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“A Normal Easter”
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .

*The Hymn 108

“Christ Is Alive!”

*The *Affirmation of Faith*

**This is the Good News which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

“Alleluia”

Ralph Manuel

* Doxology and Prayer of Dedication Doxology p. 592 in the Hymnal

Bountiful God, we come with our offerings in response to Your love. With the new life in Christ, we give ourselves in service to others. With the energy bestowed by the Spirit, we seek to inflame all Your people with a zeal for Your way. Receive the work we do, and the gifts we bring, that they may become a blessing in Your sight. Praise be to You in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME .

*The Hymn 104

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

*The Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

“Hallelujah Chorus” from Messiah

George F. Handel

*The Postlude