



EASTER SUNDAY

\* Congregation standing as you are able

# Order of Worship

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## Prelude

“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done  
*arr. Christina Harmon*  
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #275)

## Welcome and greetings

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

## Introit

“Easter Anthem”

Chancel Choir

The Lord is ris’n indeed! Hallelujah!  
Now is Christ risen from the dead,  
and become the first fruits of them that slept. Hallelujah.

And did he rise? Did he rise?  
Hear it, ye nations! Hear it, O ye dead!  
He rose; he burst the bars of death and triumphed o’er the grave.

Then I rose, then first humanity triumphant  
passed the crystal ports of light, and seized eternal youth.  
Thine’s all the glory, man’s the boundless bliss.  
*text from the New Testament and Young’s Night Thoughts, 1742; music by William Billings, 1787,  
ed. Robert Shaw, 1951*

## \* Call to worship

based on Revelation 5

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: With his blood, Jesus Christ has ransomed men for God from every tribe  
and language and people and nation.

**All: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and  
wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

## \* Hymn of praise 277, vv. 1, 2, 3, 4

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today,” *Alleluia!*  
sons of men and angels say; *Alleluia!*  
raise your joys and triumphs high; *Alleluia!*  
sing ye heav’ns, 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!*  
foll'wing our exalted Head; *Alleluia!*  
made like him, like him we rise; *Alleluia!*  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies, *Alleluia!*  
*text by Charles Wesley, 1739; music from Lyra Davidica, 1708, EASTER HYMN*

### \* Prayer of adoration

#### Affirmation of faith

based on Ephesians 1 and 2

Leader: People of God, this is the hope to which we have been called:

**All: God displayed his power and mighty strength when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over the church, which is his body.**

Leader: As for us, we were dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we used to live when we followed the ways of this world.

**All: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith—and this not from ourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

## Call to confession

from Romans 3:20-25

No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

## Silent prayers of confession

### \* Assurance of God's pardoning grace

from Colossians 1

God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

### \* Hymn of assurance

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy this blest assurance gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my everlasting Head!

He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;  
he lives, my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same.  
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives! Amen.

*text by Samuel Medley, 1775; music by John Hatton, 1978, DUKE STREET*

## Call to offering

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

## Offertory

"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

Chancel Choir

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;  
from the gloomy halls of death, Christ, the conqueror has gone,  
bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.

Hallelujah! Angels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.

Let your chorus swell the strain which our feebler voices raise:

glory to our God above and on earth his peace and love!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*text by Carl B. Garve, 1825, tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1862; music by Mark Shepperd, 2020*

**\* Doxology**

**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 dedication and thanksgiving**

**\* Scripture reading from Luke 24:1-12**

Amos Oster

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

<sup>8</sup>And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup>but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word**

**Sermon**

“Christ Has Risen”

Brian Salter, lead pastor

1. The disconcerting revelation (vv. 1-3)
2. The divine reminder (vv. 4-7)
3. The diverse reactions (vv. 8-12)
  - The women: emboldened believers (vv. 8-10)
  - The disciples: dismissive skeptics (v. 11)
  - Peter: curious investigator (v. 12)

**Pastoral prayer**

\* Hymn of response

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

\* Benediction

\* Congregational response

“Threefold Amen”

\* Postlude

Toccata in F  
C. M. Widor

**Musicians for this week:**

**Alayna Bowers** – trumpet  
**Joy Gibbons** – choral director  
**Joshua Knight** – organ  
**Devin Lentz** – trumpet

**Eric Miller** – trombone  
**Jacqueline Miller** – trombone  
**Nate Oster** – timpani

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Virginia Williams Love**  
 April 25, 1941 – April 12, 2025

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Margaret Patricia Persinger**  
 August 31, 1931 – April 12, 2025

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE EASTER CROSS** in the courtyard is given in loving memory of Flora Walldorf, Dick Fowler, Jacob Walldorf, Elise Crates, and Mike Irwin by Catherine and Charlie Walldorf. You are welcome to place your own flowers in the cross or to use one of the flowers provided at the foot of the cross.

**DR. KELLY KAPIC WILL LEAD A DISCUSSION** entitled “Wrestling with our Longings and Laments” for the Care for the Caregiver group on Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 pm at the Jane Harris Youth Building. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Lee Ballenger at rossandlee@gmail.com.

**THERE WILL BE A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** at the end of each worship service on Sunday, April 27, for two purposes: to elect the nominated elders and deacons to the class of 2028, and to receive a report concerning changes this fall to the worship schedule in order to begin a common Sunday school hour. A brochure about the officer candidates will be sent via email this week.

**BEAST FEAST IS BACK!** Men, come to the Heald Farm in Rising Fawn, GA, on May 1 at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of mouth-watering smoked meats and fellowship. Bring a lawn chair and a beverage. Register on Realm Connect by April 28; cost is \$20.

**ATTEND AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE & SONG** on Sunday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please join us for favorite Scriptures, hymns, and anthems together with our Chancel choir. Nursery will be provided. Stay for a reception after the concert to celebrate Joy Gibbons as she retires, and to thank God for her faithful ministry.

**THIS MAY, JOIN US FOR A SUMMER IN THE PSALMS.** We will provide a Psalms reading plan, and for those interested, Psalms Scripture journals will also be available for purchase. The reading plan begins May 12, with the first sermon in the series beginning May 18, so do not delay if you are interested in a journal. Register and pay on Realm Connect (found under “Events”) to receive information on journal pick-up.

**YOU RECENTLY RECEIVED A SPRING MINISTRY UPDATE** describing the first quarter of 2025, along with your giving statement. Moving forward, these new updates will be sent quarterly. You may also view the ministry update at [lmpc.org](http://lmpc.org).

*To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit [lmpc.org/events](http://lmpc.org/events).*

**THE EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF**

Belva Bailey by Don Bailey Sr.

Peggy Christine Ballenger by Lee and Ross Ballenger

Betsy Bookout by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins and Caroline and Larry Bentley

Dr. Richard J. Bowers by Becky Bowers

Donnie Brock by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins

Mr. and Mrs. Winford Brock by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins

Greg Brown by Katie and Don Morton

Kaky and Hugh Brown by Katie and Don Morton

Thomas S. Cansler Jr. by Robert and Jana Cansler Clark and family

Thomas Martin Carr Jr. by Anne and Trey Carr, Caroline, Catherine, and Margaret Carr and Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Caulkins III by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins and Caroline and Larry Bentley

Peggy Chunn by Karen and Miller Welborn

Margaret Clark by Robert Clark and Jana Cansler Clark, Houston, and Hampton Clark

Atticus Bartholomew Centurion Doe by the Doe family and Judy and Tony Pepper

Cori Fordice by Judy and Tony Pepper

Merilyn and Ross Hall by Stephanie and David Wharton

B. Daniel Harnsberger by his children and grandchildren

Marian and Charles H. Harris III by Lee and Ross Ballenger

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Hood by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins and Caroline and Larry Bentley

William C. Lambert III, M.D. by Eve and Scott Soltau

Dick Lindeman by his family

Barb MacDougall by the Gambrell Family and Elizabeth and Peter Lindquist

Nancy and Hugh Maclellan by Elizabeth and Peter Lindquist and Cathy and Daryl Heald

Aaron Madaris by Carolyn and Bill Caulkins

Jack McEwen by Lori and Richard Krabbendam, Merrile and John Stroud and family

Betty and L.D. Miller Jr. by Becky Bowers

Ruth Mitchell by Ruth Ann and Norm Leduc

Gary "Pop" Morris by Beth, McKinley, Paul, Anna-Blair, and Wright

Carol Mutter by the Mutter boys

Douglas Sizemore by Evelyn Sizemore and Stephanie and Mike Nadeja

John Sanders Soltau by Eve and Scott Soltau

Len Teague by his family

Carole P. Thomas by Ron Thomas and family

Rachel Tucker by Tuckermen

Barb Vermeer by Judy and Tony Pepper

A.W. Welborn by Karen and Miller Welborn

Rob Wharton by Stephanie and David Wharton

**THE EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF**

Joy Gibbons by Stephanie, David, and Sadie Wharton

McKinley, Paul, Anna-Blair, and Wright by Mama

Diane "Bunky" Morris by Beth Self

Kairi Thrash by Prissy and George Thrash

Peg and Bob Wharton by Stephanie and David Wharton