

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Serving Absecon - Galloway Township**

**Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor**

**Brian Conover - Music Director**

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD / EASTER SUNDAY**

**8:30 & 10:00 AM**

**\* GREETING**

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord; My brothers and sisters in Christ: On this most holy morning in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the church to pray and to watch for the dawning of his triumph and resurrection. We join with the whole company of God's people in heaven and on earth in recalling and celebrating his victory over death, and our deliverance from the bondage of sin and darkness to everlasting light. Hear the Word of God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1, 4-5).

**\* LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds: The Light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* OPENING SONG

## Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;  
3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.  
he was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.

*Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**\* APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43** *(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

**PSALM (ELW): Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24**

**<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.**

**<sup>2</sup>Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

**<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.**

**<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

**<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

**<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

**<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.**

**<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

**<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."**

**<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

**<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

**<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26** *(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

\* SONG OF PRAISE

# I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

\* **THE WORD OF GOD:** Luke 24:1-12

A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke:

*(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

### Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, sts. 1-3  
Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

#### \* NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

*(continued...)*

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

#### **\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world (*especially*). Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way (*especially*). Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you (*especially*). Merciful God,

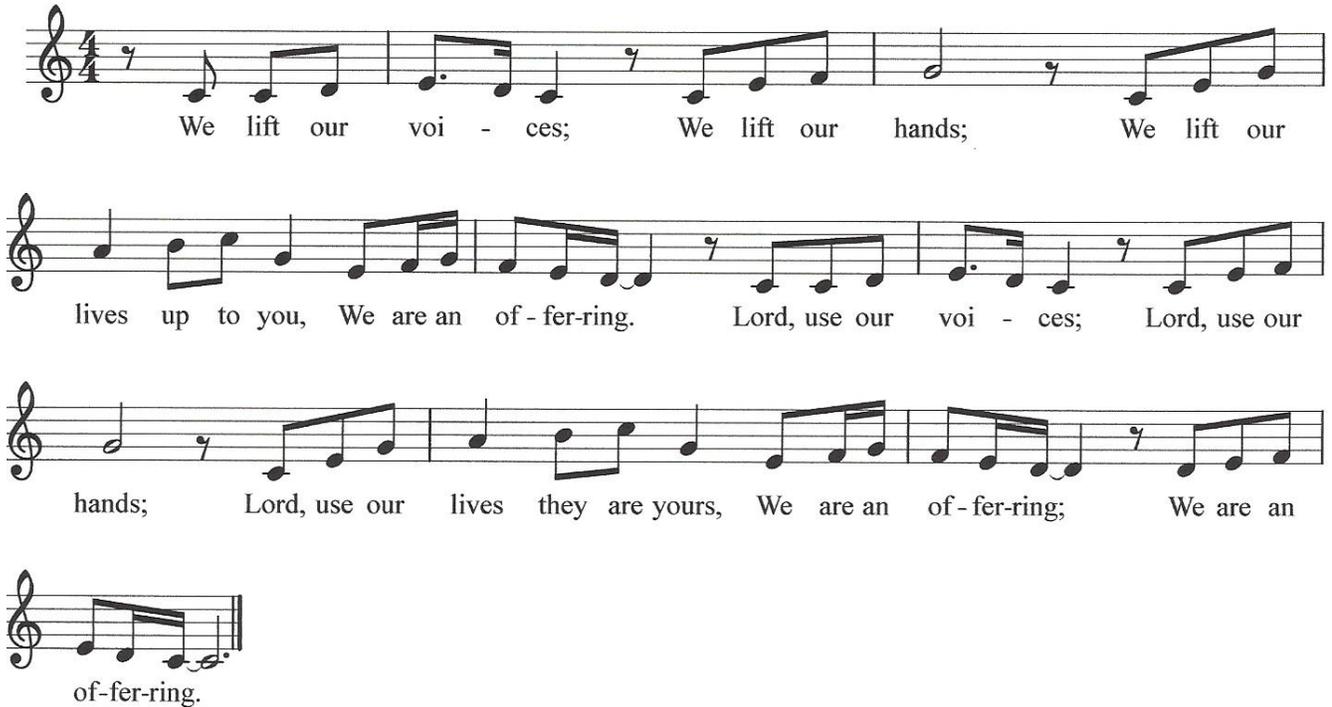
**receive our prayer.**

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

**Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

## \* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our  
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our  
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an  
of - fer-ring.

## \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

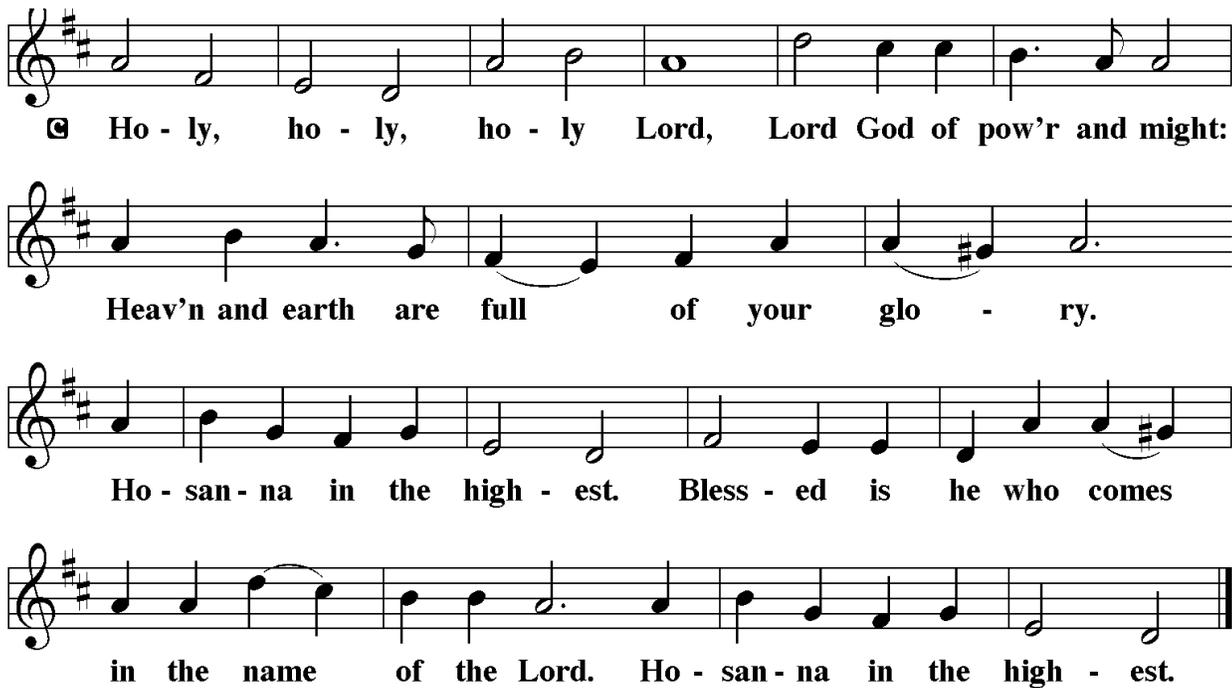
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\* 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.  
**We come.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to share at our Table. Please come to the Table as directed by an usher, kneel and raise your hand to receive the elements. Children are welcome at the Table to receive a blessing. You may remain standing if necessary. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)*

**\* POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

**\* POST COMMUNION HYMN**

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing

3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '3' indicating a triplet. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**\* BLESSING**

And now a blessing: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

\* CLOSING SONG

## Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song  
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -  
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"  
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

\* SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

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